



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

## Turkish elections in October: Erbakan aide

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's ruling coalition parties are planning early general elections in October, a senior aide to Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said Wednesday. "The elections will be held in the autumn, and most probably in October," Temel Karamollaoğlu, parliamentary group leader of Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party, told a news conference here. "An election law for the early vote will be passed and then the prime ministry will be handed over (to conservative Foreign Minister Tansu) Ciller this month," Karamollaoğlu said.

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## SLA militiaman wounded in clash with Hizbollah

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — A militiaman in the Israeli-occupied South Lebanon Army (SLA) was wounded in an attack by Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas in the border zone of South Lebanon Wednesday, SLA radio said. The SLA member was wounded when Hizbollah fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine-guns at an SLA patrol on a road near an SLA post in Houla, in the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone," security sources said. Half an hour later, Hizbollah guerrillas fired 15 mortar rounds at an SLA post in Kantara, they said. In retaliation, Israeli troops fired 20 rockets on the outskirts of the villages of Wadi Slouki, Majdal Selm and Al Qaysiyeh, the sources said. Six SLA militiamen have been killed and 27 wounded in attacks by anti-Israeli guerrillas since the beginning of the year. Hizbollah spearheads a guerrilla war to force Israel out of South Lebanon.

## Three Islamist militants killed in shoot-out with police

MINYA, Egypt (AFP) — Three Islamist militants, including one suspected of involvement in several terrorist attacks, were killed in a gunfight with police overnight in the Minya region of southern Egypt, police said Wednesday. Police launched a raid near the village of Tala in Minya to arrest four militants hiding out in a sugar-cane field, all thought to be members of the armed fundamentalist group Gamaa Islamiyah. Among those killed was Atef Ragab Toghiani, 30, sought for his role in several terrorist attacks in the Minya region since 1994, police said. Three were killed during an exchange of fire with police while the fourth fled after the death of his comrades, a police officer said. Adding that two automatic weapons and a large quantity of ammunition was found nearby. The incident brings to 1,178 the number of people killed in Egypt since the start of an Islamist anti-government campaign in Egypt in March 1992.

## Alleged coup plotters sentenced to prison in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — An army colonel accused of plotting a coup in Sudan last year has been sentenced to 15 years in prison by a special military tribunal, the official daily Al Anbaa reported Wednesday. Eight other defendants were sentenced by the court Tuesday to prison terms ranging from 30 days to five years, the daily said. Colonel Awad Kerim Nagar, accused of masterminding the coup, and his co-defendants were found guilty of "plotting to incite war against the state and undermining the constitutional regime." Nine other people, including four army officers and five non-commissioned officers, were acquitted, the newspaper said. The tribunal also convicted two other officers but instead of prison terms they were given administrative punishment. The defendants were arrested in March of last year.

## Kingdom to receive F-16s in December; Jordan-U.S. joint wargames completed

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

QATRANEH — Jordan will receive the first batch of F-16 jet fighters from the U.S. in December as part of a \$300 million U.S. military aid package to the Kingdom. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh said Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters following the conclusion of a three-week-long wargames with U.S. marines in the desert, Field Marshal Kaabneh said the Kingdom has dispatched Jordanian pilots to the United States to be trained on these aircraft.

"We will upgrade and improve our military relations, which is already deeply-rooted, as much as we can. The exercise we witnessed today is a sign of our cooperation to preserve the mutual interest of our both countries," Field Marshal Kaabneh told Jordanian and American military officials.

He added the Jordanian Armed Forces will conduct more exercises with British and French forces and U.S. troops this year as part of the Kingdom's endeavour



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh (right) and U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley William Egan Jr. (left), at the termination ceremony of the three-week-long Jordanian-U.S. military exercises, Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

to strengthen its Armed Forces.

U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan said that preparations are being made in Jordan and the U.S. for the arrival of these planes adding that more weapons are expected to

arrive to the Kingdom.

"We have some additional equipment arriving early in the fold that Secretary of Defence William Cohen and His Majesty King Hussein have discussed in Washington in April. Our international military edu-

cation programme is the largest in the world and it is going to be the largest," Mr. Egan said.

Last December, Jordan received \$100 million in military aid from the U.S.

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## Israel will never be a ghetto — Netanyahu

LONDON (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday warned Palestinian President Yasser Arafat that Israel would never reduce itself to "a ghetto state on the shores of the Mediterranean."

In an interview to mark his first year in office, Mr. Netanyahu also vowed to continue construction of the Jabal Abu Ghneim settlement, on occupied land in east Jerusalem.

"Arafat must tell his people openly and squarely that peace will not be achieved on the 1967 (border) lines," he told the Lon-

don Times.

"Israel will not reduce itself to a fragile ghetto state on the Mediterranean shores."

"Equally Arafat must stop promising the division of Jerusalem because no one in Israel, or throughout the Jewish people, will permit the rebuilding of a Berlin wall inside Israel's capital."

"These are the important adjustments to reality that have yet to take place on the Palestinian side. When they do take place, I believe peace will be in reach."

He defended construction of the Jabal Abu Ghneim settlement, which has vir-

tually brought the peace process to a standstill.

"The whole idea that the construction of houses, homes and schools is a barrier to peace is absurd," he said.

On the economic front, Mr. Netanyahu claimed to be changing the face of Israel with a major privatization programme.

"I think we have made big strides into my vision of Israel as a liberalised, free economy which is rapidly becoming one of the great centres of information and high technology economy anywhere in the world," he said.

## Rafah party inciting against Turkey's secular regime — army

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish army Wednesday openly accused Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party for the first time of inciting Turks against the country's secular regime and supporting Islamic fundamentalism.

"Those (Welfare) deputies favouring political Islam have incited the people against the secular regime and the army at an Istanbul rally," a senior general told a press briefing.

"Subversive religious activities have been boosted during the term of this government," said Fevzi Turkert, head of intelligence at the Turkish general staff.

"By hosting leaders of religious groups at the prime ministry at a dinner, a message of support has been conveyed (by Erbakan) to those groups," General Turkert said.

But he said the military was decided to protect Turkey's secular regime despite efforts to destroy it.

"The Turkish armed forces has constitutional rights to defend the regime against internal and external threats."

"Fight against subversive religious activities is of highest priority for the armed forces," the general said.

He accused the government of failing to implement an army-backed plan endorsed by the country's highest decision-making body to crack down on religious extremism.

"The measures adopted by the National Security Council have not been put into effect, apart from a few cosmetic moves," Gen. Turkert said.

"Subversive Islamic groups have formed a front to prevent the implementation of these measures," he added.

## King, Queen arrive in Paris; to discuss bilateral relations

PARIS (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in Paris on Wednesday at the start of a visit to France during which the King will meet with French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Talks between the two leaders will cover bilateral relations, the Middle East peace process and issues of common concern.

During the visit King Hussein will address a meeting of the Jordan-French Business Council and will open an archaeological exhibit at the Arab World Institute.

King Hussein arrived in

Paris after concluding a visit to the Netherlands where he held talks with Prime Minister Wim Kok in which the two leaders reviewed the Middle East situation and the peace process.

They also exchanged views over the role which Europe can play in support of American efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The two leaders also discussed economic relations, increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and joint investment projects.

King Hussein told his

host that Jordan was looking forward to a more effective European role in the development of the Middle East that would enhance stability in the region.

"Thanks to the support and to the help of the Netherlands. We are forever looking forward to greater cooperation in all fields and areas," King Hussein said at a joint press conference with the Dutch prime minister after the meeting.

"I have always had admiration and respect for the principled stands, for your search for the truth, for

(Continued on page 7)

## Prince Hassan leaves for Turkey, Europe and U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday begins a several-nation tour that will take him to the United States, Turkey and other European countries for talks on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

During his official visit to the United States, Prince Hassan will discuss with President Bill Clinton and other senior officials means of strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

Talks during the visit, which comes at the invitation of Mr. Clinton, will also cover U.S. support for economic projects in Jordan, especially the Social Productivity Package which the Kingdom adopted in March as a comprehensive plan to improve the quality of life for all Jordanians and develop infrastructure in underprivileged areas.

Prince Hassan will also hold talks with senior officials at the U.S. State and Defence Departments.

His Majesty King Hussein last week sent a letter

to President Clinton dealing with means of consolidating economic cooperation between Jordan and the United States. The message was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani who was in Wash-

ington for talks with U.S. officials on bilateral relations.

On his way to Washington, Prince Hassan will pay

(Continued on page 7)

## Regent, Solarz review Crisis Group activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday conferred at the Royal Court with Stephen Solarz, former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and member of the Board of Trustees of the International Crisis Group (ICG).

The Regent, who is also an ICG member, voiced Jordan's support for the group's objectives which he said conform with Jordan's policy of backing efforts aimed at solving international crises and contribution to the U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world.

The Prince and Mr. Solarz reviewed a proposal made 10 years ago for the creation of an international research and conflicts resolution centre in Istanbul as proposed by the Prince and the late Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Mr. Solarz reviewed the ICG's efforts for resolving crises in Bosnia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and in other parts of the world.

Mr. Solarz expressed readiness to reactivate Prince Hassan's proposal for the creation of the international research centre in Istanbul.

Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi and Mazen Arnout, the Crown Prince's advisor and president of the Institute of Diplomacy.

## Sudanese envoys request Jordan's backing for new peace agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Sudanese envoys Wednesday handed Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid a message from Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to His Majesty King Hussein and later told a press conference that they are on tour of Arab states handing messages to their leaders about the general situation in Sudan. The envoys are seeking support for Khartoum's recent peace agreements concluded with six of the Sudanese

factions in Sudan's southern provinces.

The two envoys, Mohammad Khalifeh and Orok Toun, spoke about the internal situation in Sudan and the ongoing conflict against southern rebel leader John Garang.

Mr. Khalifeh said apart from one front which is still witnessing fighting, the rest of the country was calm thanks to the peace agreement signed with the six factions.

He said that the peace

agreements covered economic and social issues and includes provisions on public freedoms, decentralisation and national unity.

He accused the remaining rebel factions under Colonel Garang as being backed by foreign powers, stressing that the peace agreements with the different factions provide for a four-year transitional period after which the southern provinces can determine their own future through a referendum.

## Egyptian envoy in new bid to get Mideast peace talks going

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian mediator Ossama Al Baz heads to Israel and Gaza on Thursday in a new push to organise Israeli-Palestinian talks and break the three-month deadlock in the peace process, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Wednesday.

The shuttle mission by Mr. Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political advisor, follows an unsuccessful bid to find a formula for resuming peace talks at a negotiating session on Sunday in Cairo.

Mr. Musa said divisions between the two sides remained, as did the "problem of (Jewish) settlements," adding: "It is for that reason that it is important to see what the situation will be tomorrow and if progress can be made or not."

Asked to respond to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's comments Tuesday insisting that Israel would not withdraw from territories conquered in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Mr. Musa said: "Such

declarations complicate the peace process."

"If that is (Mr. Netanyahu's) position, all efforts are unfortunately destined to failure," he added.

Reports earlier this week said the Israelis and Palestinians would meet Thursday but chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said on Tuesday, "there are still no plans" for a new meeting this week.

Mr. Erakat said Mr. Baz is

(Continued on page 7)

# NCP, grouping nine parties, inaugurated and launched into Jordan's political scene

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With more than 2,000 people, heads of political parties and dignitaries from various Arab countries and local high-profile personalities attending its inaugural ceremony, the National Constitutional Party (NCP) made yesterday a "grand entrance" on Jordan's political scene.

Grouping one large (Al Ahd) and eight smaller centrist parties, the NCP, officially registered at the Ministry of Interior in early May, has reshaped the configuration of the Kingdom's political arena, previously fragmented into 26 political parties.

Combining the human, ideological and financial resources of the previous parties, the new nationalist bloc is also widely expected

to launch a serious challenge to Jordan's major opposition party — the Islamic Action Front (IAF) — in this autumn's parliamentary elections.

Before a multitude in suit and tie, sprinkled here and there with traditional red and white head dresses, reflecting the character of the party, which seeks to combine tribal elements with the aspirations to a free-market economy and a modern, dynamic society, NCP Secretary General Abdul Hadi Majali voiced the party's commitment "to face the challenges of future Jordan."

Among the priorities in the party's political programme, the consolidation of a "national unity" in which, in the words of NCP Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Financial Affairs Anis Muasher, "all Jordanians

work together to build a modern Jordan, rather than wasting time discussing who's who and who's what."

A reconciliatory banner hung on a wall in the ceremony's hall read: "Our national identity is for everyone who believes in the Constitution and in belonging to the nation."

"Palestine is in the heart," another banner read, echoed by another saying: "Jordan is the castle of the Arab Nation."

The parties which, in February, ended months of intense negotiations, announced their merger into the NCP are:

— The Progress and Justice Party, headed by Ali Sa'ad. A prominent businessman, Mr. Sa'ad is currently chairman and managing director of the Jordan Tobacco & Cigarette Co. Ltd., as well as

honorary consul general of the Republic of Cyprus.

— Al Ahd, headed by Abdul Hadi Majali. Former minister of public works and housing and Karak deputy in the Lower House, Mr. Majali has been director-general of the Public Security Department, ambassador to the U.S., and Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff for Operations.

— Al Wa'ed, headed by Anis Muasher. Former minister of finance and a prominent businessman, Mr. Muasher is also president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

— The Jordanian National Alliance, headed by Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha. Mr. Khreisha has worked at the Royal Court as assistant chief of the press section and deputy chief of Royal

Protocol. He has also been deputy director of HRH Crown Prince Hassan's office.

— Al Watan, headed by Hakam Kheir, appointed NCP spokesperson, and Akif Fayed, appointed president of the NCP political guidance committee.

— The Jordanian Arab Masses Party, headed by Abdul Khaleq Shataat.

— Al Yakatha, headed by former Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ra'ouf Rawabdeh.

— The Popular Unity Party, headed by Talal Ramahi.

— The Irbid-based Jordanian Popular Movement, headed by Jamal Kharib, who joined the new bloc only in the very last phase of the negotiations, becoming the ninth party in the merger.



ALWAYS UP IN ARMS IN YEMEN: File photo shows an armed Yemeni boy, after leaving the Jihana arms market, south of Sanaa. Yemeni authorities launched a campaign, on Wednesday, to persuade residents of cities and towns to hand over their weapons, in a country where tradition dictates that a real man carry a gun or dagger (Photo by AFP)

## Turkey urges Iran to crack down on rebel Turkish Kurds

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey Tuesday called on Iran to act against separatist Turkish Kurds who Ankara says use Iranian territory for attacks against Turkish targets.

"We have asked the Iranians to be involved in close cooperation with us against terrorism," Turkish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Onur Oymen told reporters after a meeting with visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Aladdin Brujardi.

Mr. Oymen was referring to a call for cooperation against the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK), which has been waging a separatist war in southeast Turkey since 1984.

The Turkish-Iranian talks came amid an ongoing Turkish army incursion into northern Iraq to wipe out PKK bases there.

A Turkish military statement said Tuesday that 2,418 PKK members had been killed in northern Iraq since the incursion began on May 14. It made no mention of Turkish losses.

The PKK said last week that its losses were less than 100.

Tehran has denounced the Turkish military campaign and urged Ankara to withdraw its troops immediately.

Mr. Brujardi was due to meet Turkish President Suleyman Demirel later Tuesday to present him

with a message from Iranian President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"We explained to the Iranians that recent statements by the Turkish military (about Iran) are not baseless," Mr. Oymen said.

A senior Turkish general last Friday charged Iran with helping the PKK acquire anti-aircraft missiles that recently shot down two Turkish military helicopters in northern Iraq.

General Erol Ozkaskan, armed forces secretary general, also accused Iran of providing shelter for PKK rebels fleeing the Turkish operation. Tehran has denied the charges.

## Iraqi air commander said killed in Baghdad

CAIRO (AP) — A major Iraqi opposition group Wednesday claimed that dissidents have killed a senior army officer.

The mainly Shiite group, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said Major General Ahmed Eziddin Dulaimi was killed on May 29 while on his way to his headquarters in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

There was no way to confirm the claim, made in a written statement by the Iran-based group. Iraqi officials do not comment on opposition claims.

If true, the killing of Gen. Dulaimi would be the most daring opposition attack since the Dec. 12 assassination attempt on

President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday.

The Supreme Council statement described Gen. Dulaimi as a senior army defence commander responsible for protecting key installations in Baghdad.

The Iran-based group said Gen. Dulaimi and several of his bodyguards were killed in an ambush by armed assailants. It did not elaborate and it was not clear if members of the Supreme Council itself carried out the attack.

Exiled opposition groups working to oust Saddam have regularly reported killing Iraqi officials in the past. Many of their claims have been confirmed later.

## Moroccan leader accuses rival party of murder link

RABAT (R) — Police have arrested a group of Moroccans suspected of being involved in the murder of a rival party militant in the runup to local elections, Justice Minister Abderrahman Amalou said in a letter published on Wednesday.

The minister's letter appeared in Al-Alam newspaper after another newspaper on Tuesday had carried an open letter addressed to the prime minister by the leader of old-guard Istiqlal Party Muhammad Boucetta.

Mr. Boucetta, in his letter to Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali, said

Abdelaziz Fodali, a supporter of Istiqlal, was murdered by a rival political group and no action had been taken.

"Members of the rival group tried to deter the victim from supporting another militant of the party. When he refused they fell on him and stabbed him to death," he said.

More than 100,000 candidates are competing for 24,253 seats in Morocco's local council elections which will be held on Friday.

Officials at the interior ministry were not available for comment.

## Sudanese opposition figure returns home after 8 years

KHARTOUM (AFP) —

A prominent Sudanese opposition figure returned home here Tuesday after spending eight years in exile, saying it was time for "reconciliation" and that the people had suffered enough after more than a decade of civil war and political instability.

Sherif Zein Al Abidin Hindi, the former secretary-general of the banned Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) flew home to be welcomed by the Interior Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh and several hundred supporters.

"I have come back to help in achieving stability in Sudan in bringing the viewpoints of the government and opposition closer," Mr. Hindi said at the airport.

He added: "The Sudanese people have suffered a great deal from the war and its calamities."

Mr. Hindi was reported on bad terms during his exile with the opposition Democratic National Alliance led by DUP chief Mohammad Osman Mirghani who was said to have sacked Mr. Hindi

from the party.

Mr. Hindi made a much-publicised offer of reconciliation at a meeting with President Omar Bashir in Cairo last year while the Sudanese leader was there for an Arab summit.

Mr. Hindi reportedly set as a condition for returning to Sudan that the government consider restoring a multi-party system.

However this was flatly rejected by both Gen. Bashir and Parliament Speaker Hassan Abdul-lah Turabi.

## Yemen's joining wildlife trade convention boon for rhino

GENEVA (AP) — Yemen — one of the main markets for illegal imports of rhino horn — won praise from environmentalists Tuesday for new measures to fight for the endangered animal.

The World Wide Fund (WWF) for nature said Yemen's decision to join the convention on trade in endangered species, cited, was a big step forward.

"Membership should enable Yemen to effectively develop and implement adequate measures to deter this dangerous trade," said WWF rhinoceros expert Esmond Bradley Martin.

Rhinos are hunted for their horn, used in Yemen to make highly sought-after handles for traditional daggers known as "jambiyas." WWF estimates that the annual quantity of rhino horn entering Yemen would correspond to 18 of the endangered animals.

A mere 2,500 black rhinos remain in the wild in Africa, compared with 65,000 in 1970.

The most endangered type is the white rhino, found only in former Zaire, with only about 27 animals left.

The demand for rhino horn in Yemen soared with the 1970's oil

boom. This caused prices to rocket from about \$30 a kilo in 1970 to nearly \$600 in 1979. This in turn encouraged rampant poaching.

The rhino is listed as one of the most threatened animals by CITES, which bans trade in all its products. Now that Yemen has joined, it will be obliged to enforce the ban and clamp down on imports.

Measures to protect the rhino and other endangered animals will be discussed at the current CITES meeting in Zimbabwe.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 .....French Programmes  
16:00 .....Out of This World  
16:30 They Came From Outer Space  
18:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:30 .....News Headline  
19:35 .....Step By Step  
20:00 .....World Echo  
20:30 New Talk Show — The Oprah Winfrey Show  
21:10 .....Kung Fu  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Feature film  
01:05 .....Soccer Match-Peru vs. Uruguay

### PRAYER TIMES

03:50 .....Fajr  
05:25 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
12:35 .....Dhuhr  
16:14 .....Asr  
19:46 .....Maghreb  
21:12 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifich, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

## JORDAN TIMES RAIL GUIDE AND CALENDAR

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Mild weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night with temperatures remaining below average be 4-5

degrees centigrade and winds westerly to northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

Mini/Max. Temperatures

Amman .....15/26

Aqaba .....21/35

Deserts .....13/30

Jordan Valley .....20/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 25, Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mazen Nhal .....830435

Dr. Fayed Dabbas .....759155

Dr. Adnan Zaghloul .....98140

Dr. Fakhri Bilal .....552233

Elias pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al Asena pharmacy .....637055

Natroukh pharmacy .....623672

Al Selam pharmacy .....636730

Yacoub pharmacy .....644945

Shamsani pharmacy .....637660

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Zakaria Malkawi .....218615

Al Quds pharmacy .....(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mazen Safarini .....985832

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111

Civil Defence Department .....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341

Civil Defence Emergency .....199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department .....630321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615

Electric Power Company .....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre .....813813/32

Khalidi Maternity .....644281/6

Akileh Maternity .....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shamsani 607071

Shamsani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .....66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Heilan, Al-Mohajreen .....777101/3

Al-Bashir .....775111/26

Army, Marica .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital .....602240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital .....(09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should

always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 .....Sanaa (RJ)

09:15 .....Muscat (RJ)

09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)

10:00 .....Bombay (RJ)

10:05 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:25 .....Beirut (RJ)

10:40 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 .....Colombo (RJ)

15:55 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:30 .....London (RJ)

18:25 .....Casablanca (RJ)

18:55 .....Doha (RJ)

19:10 .....Athens (RJ)

19:20 .....Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

19:45 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

21:45 .....Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights

04:00 .....Athens (OA)

06:15 .....Isanbul (TK)

08:45 .....Beirut (ME)

08:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)

09:10 .....London (BA)

14:30 .....Riyadh (SV)

14:45 .....Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)

15:30 .....Annaba (Algeria) (AH)

17:00 .....Rome (AZ)

21:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)



## Queen visits school for disabled children in the Hague

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday, in the Hague, visited the Haagse Mytilschool De Piramide, a publicly funded school providing special education for disabled children, particularly those afflicted with cerebral palsy, at both primary and secondary levels, a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor, who is the honorary president of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF), expressed her hope that the De Piramide School and CPF would establish a cooperative venture whereby the foundation could benefit from De Piramide's technical expertise, which includes designing special equipment for the disabled children.

Upon admittance to the school, an interdisciplinary plan is drawn up for each individual child, incorpo-

rating rehabilitation and treatment as well as academic and personal development.

The school's programme, which promotes independence and self-reliance, aims at reintegrating disabled children as productive members of society.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 10 per cent of the population of developing countries suffer from disabilities, however statistics in Jordan indicate that this has not exceeded 4 per cent, the statement said. According to available data, there are 168,000 citizens with mild disabilities, 84,000 of whom are children and adolescents, the statement added.

Since 1990, governmental and non-governmental organisations have started to establish community outreach rehabilitation pro-

grammes, which introduce rehabilitative interventions as early as possible.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation Institute for Child Health and Development, which was founded in 1986, has a Child Development Unit that provides development assessment and supervision of minor and moderate disabilities through play therapy, and designs programmes to improve the monitoring of the physical health, psychological and social needs of children under the age of six.

Queen Noor was accompanied by the wife of Jordan's ambassador to the Netherlands Dr. Lina Toukan, and was received by the wife of the Dutch Prime Minister Mrs. Margrietha Lummechiena Kok-Reukema and the Director of the School Mrs. Jan van Overveld.

## Press freedom groups appeal for repeal of amendments to law

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two international press freedom groups Wednesday condemned amendments to Jordan's Press and Publications Law introduced last month.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Article 19, based in New York and London respectively, appealed to His Majesty King Hussein to repeal last month's amendments.

A statement to the press said the new amendments imposed "sweeping restrictions on the press, giving the state broad powers to suspend, fine and permanently close newspapers" found to be in violation of "the many vaguely-worded provisions of the law."

The government-scripted amendments included an article stating that the courts would have the right to order a three-to-six-month "cessation of publications" — in addition to levying fines ranging from JD 30,000-50,000 — for recurrent violators of certain articles. It subsequently vested the power to authorise the resumption of publication with the minister of information "after the fine has been paid and in accordance with the guarantees and conditions

decided by the minister."

Under the law, the court retains the right to annul the licence of publications who violate the law more than three times.

The appeal criticised the original 1993 press law as already having contained "sweeping provisions" that granted authorities power to take journalists to court, and said that the new law, which added new provisions to the "dos and don'ts" list of the former law, granted the executive "even wider latitude to ban outspoken journalists to court and further shield government officials from criticism."

The government last week dismissed a strong condemnation of the law from another international organisation.

In an unprecedented statement to the press regarding the new law, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said a 17-page report from Human Rights Watch Middle East "judged the amendments from a distance, and issued a judgement on freedom in our country that lacks justice."

He also said that the report was "not precise" when it criticised the government for taking newspapers to court for their dealings with "the peace issue."

"Most cases were because of offending the heads of several brotherly Arab states, or causing harm to Jordan's relations with its Arab medium," he said. "And we received several complaints with regards to this."

The minister criticised the organisation's call for Jordan to adhere to the International Declaration on Human Rights as being "selective" of the items in the convention that also guarantee people's right to protect their reputation, honour and private life, and asserted that the amendments comply with the provisions of the international Convention on Civil and Political Rights whose articles emphasise the right to protect individuals' right to privacy and from campaigns that smear their honour or reputation.

The CPJ and Article 19, in addition to appealing to the King to repeal the amendments to the law and cease the arrest of journalists, asked that any future initiatives to regulate the press be "conducted in the context of debate and with consultation of members of the press" and that the government ensure that such initiatives be subject to the parliamentary process.

## Regent stresses mutual benefit of advancing ties with Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan the Regent, Wednesday said Jordan was intent on advancing its economic ties and furthering the humanitarian dimension of its cooperation with Qatar.

At a meeting at the Royal Court with visiting Qatari Sheikh Abdullah Ben Ahmad Al Thani and an accompanying delegation, the Regent stressed that international trade should not ignore the western Asian region.

Prince Hassan pointed to areas in Jordan which can be developed into tourist attraction sites, citing in particular the Jordan Valley Rift region as expected to witness comprehensive development.

Sheikh Abdullah said his visit here was for the purpose of exploring prospects for Qatari investments, mainly in the tourism area.

He also voiced Qatar's appreciation to Jordan for supporting the planned Doha Economic Summit meeting.

Prince Hassan asked

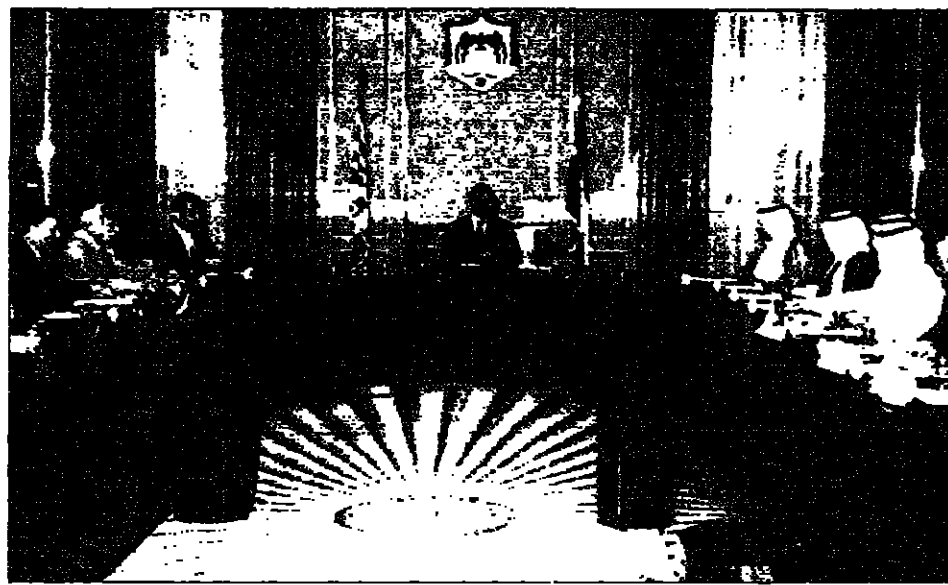
Sheikh Abdullah to convey greetings to Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifeh Al Thani, Qatar's Crown Prince, and to the country's prime minister.

Sheik Abdullah is also Qatar's undersecretary of its Ministry of Industry.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Nasser Lawzi, Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin, and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji as well as Jordan's ambassador to Qatar, Trad Fayed and Qatar's ambassador to Jordan, Nasser Abdul Aziz Nasser, attended the meeting at the Royal Court.

The Qatari delegation was also received Wednesday by Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour who reviewed Jordan's economic developments and challenges as well as the recently adopted investment laws giving wider powers to the private sector in investment affairs.

Dr. Ensour also outlined the incentives offered to investors particularly in tourism industry and discussed the general situation



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday meets with Qatari Sheikh Abdullah Ben Ahmad Al Thani (Petra photo)

in the region including the peace process. On the latter subject, he said that if a comprehensive and just peace were to be realised, the Middle East region would become one of the most attractive areas for investments.

Commenting on the investment climate, Sheikh

Abdullah will explore areas for investments and will encourage Qatari entrepreneurs to take a serious look at Jordan's tourism sector.

He also underlined the importance of creating a Jordan-Qatar Business Council to further boost bilateral trade.

Later, Sheikh Abdullah met Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin and discussed the coming meeting of the joint Jordanian-Qatari Higher Committee which is to hold a meeting in July to discuss trade deals and to conclude several trade and economic protocols.

## Jordan's UNDP human development ranking to be released today

AMMAN (J.T.) — At exactly the same time that the 1997 Human Development Report is made public to the world in Washington, D.C. and Bonn, Germany, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will release the report's findings in Amman today at an official ceremony, a UNDP statement said.

The report is an assessment of living standards in 175 countries, the statement said. Published annually, the Human Development Report is commissioned by UNDP and written by an independent team of scholars and experts from around the world.

According to the statement, since it was first published in 1990, the Human Development Report has underscored the importance of people-centered development with a strong emphasis on equitable and sustainable economic growth.

One of the highlights of the report, the statement said, is the Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks countries every year according to three variables — life expectancy, adult literacy and per capita income.

According to the UNDP, Jordan's ranking over the last seven years has fluctuated between a low of 98 and a high of 73, reflecting, to some extent, its vulnerability to the prevailing economic and political climate.

The agency added that since 1993, however, the Kingdom's ranking has been slowly climbing with a higher HDI value, much in part to the progress it has achieved in education and health.

Last year, Canada topped the HDI ranks, followed by the United States, Japan, Netherlands and Norway.

The Arab country with the highest human development index was Bahrain with a ranking of 39, followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) at 42, Qatar at 50, and Kuwait at 51.

The release of the report in Amman today will be held under the patronage of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

## Police search for clues in Fourth Circle murders

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Police in Amman are searching for an assailant/s in connection with the gruesome murder of a 63-year-old man and his secretary Wednesday near the Fourth Circle area, according to official sources.

Jubrael Iskander, and his 32-year-old secretary Fatimah Michael were found murdered at around noon in Mr. Iskander's office located on Fawzi Mulki St. behind Zahran Palace, officials said.

Head of the National Institute for Forensic Medicine Mo'men Hadidi told the Jordan Times that preliminary autopsy examinations indicated that "both victims were struck by a blunt heavy object such as an iron bar on different parts of the body."

The examiner said the victims had also both been stabbed with a sharp object several times. "The woman's head was severely disfigured and she had multiple injuries," Dr. Hadidi said. One official source stated Wednesday that the motives behind the murder were still being investigated, adding that theft was a possibility. "A few items were missing from the murder scene, but it is too early to determine if their disappearance was connected to the murder," said the source. The source added that the office guard was not present on the morning of the incident and that police were looking for him. Officials contacted by the Jordan Times Wednesday evening said they were still searching for the assailants. According to Dr. Hadidi, a post-mortem will be performed on both victims today (Thursday). Meanwhile, an autopsy performed on an 18-

year-old, who on Sunday was reportedly shot and killed by her older brother in Jerash, indicated that the woman was four-months pregnant, according to Dr. Hadidi.

The victim Fatmeh Mahmoud and her 34-year-old husband Sa'eed Ibrahim were reportedly shot by Ms. Mahmoud's brother Ahmad, who told police shortly after his arrest that he killed his sister to "cleanse his family's honour."

Also on Wednesday, a 22-year-old man was found stabbed in Al Nuzha suburb, an official source said.

The source said it is possible that the man, identified only by his initials J.S.A., might have committed suicide because of family problems.

The official would not elaborate. Police said they were investigating the incident.

## \$900,000 USAID grant to ACOR will help long-term planning — official

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant of \$900,000 to the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) will provide ACOR with sustainable financial resources that are vital to long-term planning, said an ACOR official.

ACOR Associate Director Patricia Bikai said that previous USAID/ACOR cooperation has helped archaeology emerge as a profession, benefiting Jordanians, the archaeological community, and visitors from

around the world. "We have sought to preserve the Kingdom's rich heritage for the citizens of Jordan and visitors to enjoy," USAID Mission Director Lewis Lucke told participants at the contract signing ceremony on Tuesday.

Since 1988, USAID has awarded ACOR more than \$5.4 million for archaeological and historical preservation activities in Jordan.

"USAID is about economic development," Mr. Lucke told the Jordan Times. "Jordan's ability to attract tourists is important to its long-term benefits."

The grant contract was signed by U.S. Ambassador in Amman Wesley Egan, ACOR Director Pierre Bikai, and Mr. Lucke at ACOR offices.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Princess Majda Ra'ad, Senator Leila Sharaf, and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji.

"This endowment promises to support the excavation and preservation of Jordan's archaeological treasures well into the 21st century," Mr. Lucke concluded.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### FILM

\*"Cafas Y Barro" (parts 3 & 4) at the Cervantes Institute, Jabal Amman, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
\*Stage Coach" at the American Centre, Abdoun, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.  
PLAY  
\*Jadara Shines Anew" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m.

#### LECTURE

\*"Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is Investment Property: How to Grow a Vibrant IPR-based Economy in Today's World" by Peter Fowler at the American Centre, Abdoun at 6:00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\*Exhibition of American products at the Amman International Fair, Marj Al Hamam, until June 13.  
\*Photo exhibition entitled "Children of Planet Earth" by Takeyshi Tanuma at Haya Cultural Centre, Shmeisani, until June 12.  
\*Works by Abdul Basit Naqqash and Sa'd Hussein entitled "Heritage and Culture" at the gallery of the Jordan Plastic Artists Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 21.  
\*Exhibition on "The Beauty of the Jordanian Environment" by Omar Bassoul at the Royal Cultural Centre, until June 12.  
\*Art exhibition by Ibrahim Al Abdali at the Orient Art Gallery, Shmeisani, Issam Ajlouni Street, until June 19.



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## Taliban evacuate Pul-i-Khumri; Kabul front calm

KABUL (AFP) — A 3000-strong Taliban force trapped 230 kilometres north of Kabul has evacuated the town of Pul-i-Khumri for neighbouring Baghlan, aid sources said Wednesday.

Foreign agencies with offices in Pul-i-Khumri said the beleaguered Taliban joined their Hezb-i-Islami allies in Baghlan city 24 kilometres from Pul-i-Khumri Tuesday night.

The surprise Taliban pullout followed heavy fighting Tuesday on two frontlines around Pul-i-Khumri, they said. There was no reported incoming artillery fire on city residential areas and the situation was now calm, the sources said.

Pul-i-Khumri was said to be occupied by the forces of Commander Ahmad Shah Masood and his ally Sayyad Jaffar Naderi, former governor and leader of the Ismaelia religious sect, Kanan militia.

An official spokesman for Commander Masood, contacted by satellite telephone in northern Afghanistan, said Pul-i-Khumri had fallen and claimed the capture of 500 Taliban fighters.

The other major anti-Taliban alliance partner, the ethnic Uzbek forces now under the command of General Abdul Malik, were said not to be in Pul-i-Khumri but to have pursued the Taliban in the direction of neighbouring Baghlan.

The evacuated Taliban force — led by Mullah Amir Khan Murtazi, minister of information and culture — held out in Pul-i-Khumri for two weeks before Tuesday's late night withdrawal to sanctuary in Baghlan city.

Baghlan, a sprawling complex of three loosely linked settlements, has long been under the control of the ethnic Pashtun Mujahideen faction Hezb-i-Islami, who have declared themselves pro-Taliban.

In late May Mr. Murtazi's force had left Kabul for the northern capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, where Gen. Malik had defected to the Taliban.

However the Taliban badly blundered in Mazar, and Gen.

Malik — outraged at being dealt with as a subordinate rather than an equal partner — again turned, this time against the Islamic militia.

In Baghlan Mr. Murtazi's force will at least be able to dig in with their Hezb-i-Islami allies who know the terrain well and be able to join in a defence difficult to break in the short-term.

However they appear to be once again trapped in a hostile part of the country, and the long-term survival prospects of this Taliban force would seem grim, analysts said.

Meanwhile north of Kabul there was no major action on the frontlines, except for a minor exchange of artillery fire Wednesday morning.

Commander Masood still controls the much-contested town of Jabul Siraj 77 kilometres north of the Afghan capital, and the Taliban occupy the 2nd Division Army Base just across the Salang River.

The main road linking the 2nd division base with Jabul Siraj has been cut at the bridge over the Salang River, which Commander Masood's sappers have blown up, hindering any further Islamic militia advance.

Meanwhile, a Taliban official in Kabul reiterated Tuesday's denial that the Islamic movement's senior leader — Mullah Mohammad Omar — was currently visiting the Afghan capital.

The Bakhtar state news agency chief told AFP again Wednesday that Mr. Omar — better known as Amir Ul-Momenin ("Commander of the Faithful") to his followers — was still resident in the southern provincial capital of Kandahar.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Wednesday the creation of a broad coalition government was essential for peace in Afghanistan and he urged unspecified foreign powers to stay out of the conflict.

"We believe that all warring groups in Afghanistan should resolve all their problems by peaceful means... We think that Afghanistan should not be ruled by a single group," Mr.

Velayati told a news conference in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, at the end of a two-day visit to the former Soviet republic.

Mr. Velayati, whose country is also ruled according to Islamic Law but has repeatedly criticised the Taliban for its extremist interpretations of Islam, said Tehran believed the Taliban's success was due to the support of other states in the region.

"Those foreign states which interfere into Afghanistan's internal affairs should stop their actions because this involvement kindles the flame of war and thwarts the establishment of peace in this country," he said.

Mr. Velayati declined to name the countries backing the Taliban. Afghanistan's opposition has said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which have recognised the Taliban government in Kabul, are supporting the militia.

Russia and the five former Soviet Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have voiced fears that regional stability could be shattered by the advent of militant Taliban-style Islam.

They also fear an influx of refugees if the Taliban conquer northern Afghanistan. Iran also borders Afghanistan and Mr. Velayati echoed these fears.

"We are concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, because Central Asian states are our neighbours and must live in conditions of security," he said.

"In the nearest future we will need a common conference of the neighbouring states to see a solution to the conflict."

In a separate development, up to 30 people were killed when Russian border troops in Tajikistan clashed Tuesday with armed Tajik Islamist opposition guerrillas trying to cross into the ex-Soviet state from Afghanistan, the Russian military said.

"The fighters lost about 30 men," the press service of Russia's Federal Border Service in the Tajik capital Dushanbe told Reuters.

## Thousands of refugees still hiding — UNHCR

NAIROBI (AFP) — Thousands of Rwandan refugees are hiding in forests in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday, announcing plans to evaluate the use of small airstrips for their repatriation.

A statement by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said local authorities had informed the agency that 14,000 of the refugees were gathered in small numbers around the towns of Shabunda, Katshungu and Lulingu.

These reports confirmed "information from other sources that many refugees continue to hide in forests along the western axis from Bukavu (the capital of South Kivu province)."

The agency repatriated 26 refugees to Kigali Tuesday, bringing the number flown home from the former Zaire since the rebels of Laurent Kabila went on the offensive there last October, winning power on May 17, to

50,088, the UNHCR said. A UNHCR mission up the Ruki River found 300 refugees at Ingende, east-southeast of Mbandaka, in the west, and a transport barge set out Tuesday with an escort of 15 government soldiers to bring half of them back to a transit centre.

Around 100 Rwandan refugees are being picked up every day from collection points as far as 88 kilometres from Mbandaka, the agency said.

Some 600 refugees in Mbuji-Mayi, the capital of Eastern Kasai province, said many others were nearby, it said, adding that UNHCR staff and local officials would mount a joint mission to search for them.

The Hutu refugees are the last of those who fled Rwanda in 1994, fearing vengeance, after a civil war won by rebel Tutsis after Hutu hardliners had slaughtered more than 500,000 people.

## Series of disasters kill 34 in China province

BEIJING (R) — Gales, floods, hail and landslides have devastated three counties in China's southwestern Yunnan province, killing 34 people and injuring 281, the People's Daily overseas edition said Wednesday.

The series of disasters on

June 4 and 5 in the Yunnan counties of Yiliang, Yongshan and Dagan affected 115,720 people and damaged 37,456 homes, the newspaper said.

The disasters affected 13,440 hectares of farmland, it said but gave no

details of economic losses. Rescue work in the stricken areas was under way, it said.

An official in neighbouring Sichuan province said Tuesday that a huge landslide triggered by torrential rains had killed at least

three people and left 147 missing.

The landslide crashed down on four villages in Sichuan's Meigu County early on June 5, burying residents as they slept, the official said by telephone from the provincial capital, Chengdu.

## Sweden approves phase-out of nuclear energy

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's parliament has approved a decision to phase out nuclear power starting from 1998 despite protests from the country's business sector and trade unions, a parliamentary spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of allocating nine billion crowns over seven years to begin the phase-out of nuclear power.

Under the proposal, the first closure of one of Sweden's 12 nuclear reactors will take place in July 1998, two months ahead of the country's next general election.

The decision to close Sweden's 12 nuclear plants was taken earlier this year — 17 years after a referendum in which Sweden voted to phase out nuclear energy by the year 2010.

It was seen as a political move by the ruling but minority Social Democrats to forge a closer alliance with the green-minded Centre Party, whose votes it needs to control Parliament. The Left Party also supported the move.

Support for the Social Democrats and Prime Minister Goran Persson has fallen over the past year to

its lowest since April 1991. But rather than bolster support for the Social Democrats, the proposed phase-out and loss of jobs triggered an angry reaction from Sweden's business sector, trade unions and even within the ranks of Social Democratic supporters.

Industry leaders were incensed by the decision to accelerate the phase-out of nuclear power, eliminating a cheap and reliable source of energy without explaining how it will ensure competitively priced long-term energy supplies. Sweden relies on nuclear power for about half of its

electricity. The remainder comes mainly from hydropower.

Under current proposals, the first of two reactors at Barseback on Sweden's west coast, in sight of Copenhagen, will close in July 1998.

The second reactor at Barseback, owned by private company Sydkraft Syd, will be closed in July 2001. The Barseback reactors are the oldest in Sweden.

No timetable has been drawn up for the closure of the other reactors and it seems unlikely the phase-out could be completed by 2010.

## Zimbabwe hits out against environment campaigners

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe, frustrated by opposition to its proposal to resume trade in ivory, is pressing for a review of the role of environmental pressure groups at conferences on endangered species.

Tichaona Jukonya, the Zimbabwe chairman of a 10-day Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), accused some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) at the Harare conference of promoting extreme policies on wildlife.

He named no group at a press briefing with Zimbabwe's state news agency, but President Robert Mugabe's government has come under assault from dozens of Western-based green movements opposed to its Japa-

nese-backed proposal for a partial lifting of a ban on ivory sales.

Opponents of the proposal to exempt elephant-rich Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana from the ban say the move would endanger elephants, not just in Southern Africa but around the globe.

Mr. Jukonya said rules allowing NGOs to attend CITES meetings as observers and allowing them to campaign freely on the sidelines were too lax.

"At CITES an NGO just goes to its government, and if permitted can be admitted to the meeting. But at other international fora an NGO is only recognised if it is accepted by the organisers of the conference," he said. "There are certain ways in

which NGOs are given undue recognition because there are some who come to CITES to promote some rightwing fascist ideas," he said.

The Zimbabwe state media have been accusing opponents of the ivory trade proposal of hypocrisy, of valuing wildlife more than human beings and of refusing to see ivory trade as an environmentally-sustainable policy meant to benefit the poor.

They argue that elephants may be in danger elsewhere but in Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana — which have a collective herd of around 150,000 — they are both secure and too numerous.

The ivory debate is the most contentious at the

Zimbabwe CITES meeting where about 80 other proposals on endangered species are being discussed by more than 2,000 delegates and observers.

"At the end, we hope the interest of man will take precedence over that of animals and that those countries with zoos and not natural habitats to view wildlife do not dictate conservation policy to those with impeccable conservation programmes," the official Sunday Mail newspaper said on the eve of the CITES forum.

Since then, Zimbabwe's state media have been filled with opinions largely supporting the ivory trade proposal. Some local journalists have been openly hostile to the opposition campaign.

## Asians vow to help poor African nations

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand and Japan, co-hosts of the second Asia-Africa Forum on closer cooperation between the two continents, Wednesday vowed to step up assistance to Africans in need and sought more international help for them.

"It is encouraging to note that there is increasing optimism about the future of Africa. Political and economic reform undertaken by African countries in the late 1980s and early 1990s has begun to show positive results," Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh said at the opening of the forum.

"The international community must redouble its efforts to work with African countries to sustain the positive trend into this second half of the 1990s and beyond," he added.

"Asia and Africa must work closely together in facing these common challenges. We must pool our resources... Asia and Africa can do much more to help one another," he said.

More than 200 delegates

from eight international organisations and more than 70 African and Asian countries were taking part in the three-day meeting.

Thailand and Japan initiated the forum. The first Asia-Africa Forum was held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1994.

Rwaka Constance, the permanent secretary of the Rwandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, said African nations need more investment and assistance from Asia.

"The tripartite cooperation between Asia, Africa and U.N. should form up to be the mechanism of cooperation," she said.

"African countries need more investment from Asian countries. We need help in the areas of development of human resources," she added.

Mrs. Constance said there still were plentiful natural resources in Africa that could be explored, exploited and invested in. Africans were keen on exchanging these resources with other developing nations, she said.

## Australian republic is inevitable, says loyalist

SYDNEY (AFP) — The joint chief of a convention formed to decide if Australia should become a republic surprised critics Wednesday by saying ties with Britain would ultimately be cut.

Hours after his appointment was criticised as "political" by the Labour opposition, veteran MP Ian Sinclair, former leader of the staunchly loyalist National Party said he believed Australia would eventually have to change its head of state.

"I lean to a position that ultimately there will have to be change but I don't see it as something that is going to happen tomorrow or that there is a requirement that it should happen tomorrow," Mr. Sinclair told ABC Radio.

Prime Minister John Howard, Australia's leading monarchist, Tuesday appointed the seemingly balanced team of Mr. Sinclair from the conservative side and Republican former Labour minister Barry Jones to head the convention.

In accordance with a pre-election commitment by Mr. Howard, the convention will begin hearing debate on the vexed issue of whether Australia should sever its two-century link to the British monarch in December.

Opposition leader Kim Beazley criticised the appointments saying the fact that parliamentarians had been appointed made it clear Mr. Howard saw the convention as "a political exercise" rather than an attempt to decide if an Australian should be the head of state.

Mr. Jones, federal presi-

dent of the Labour Party, said the opposition had feared that the convention process was designed to fail, but the appointments by Mr. Howard indicated a willingness to find consensus on the issue.

"The fact they've chosen Ian Sinclair and me indicates there is a desire to try to find consensus," he said.

In a departure from convention, Mr. Sinclair also said he saw no need to install an Australian head of state in time for the new century or to open the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games because the prime minister should open the games.

The Olympics have traditionally been opened by the head of state of the host country, including the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, which were opened by the Queen.

"I think it's quite appropriate for the prime minister to do that," he said. "He's the head of the executive of Australia."

Mr. Sinclair said he did not particularly want to see an Australian head of state appointed in 2000, adding: "If it happens it will happen."

But the convention for the first time gave Australians a chance to decide what the head of state should do, how they should be appointed, what he or she should be called, when the change should take place, and if it should take place.

Asked when change should happen, he said: "When the Australian electorate feels comfortable that there is a need to change."

A constitutional referendum would have to win majority support in all six states before a new head of state is appointed.

## H. Kong Democrats sees fall in post-handover seats

HONG KONG (R) — The leader of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, Martin Lee, expects to win under a quarter of the seats in the first elected legislature after the British-ruled territory returns to China.

The party, battling Beijing's plans to reverse democratic reforms here, holds about one-third of seats in the current freely-elected assembly to be scrapped on the June 30 handover.

"Of the 60 seats of the legislature for grabs in the 1998 elections, the Democrats... will get no more than 13 seats," Mr. Lee told an Oxford and Cambridge alumni meeting late Tuesday.

The Democratic Party, seen by Beijing as "subversive," holds 19 seats in the current 60-seat Legislative Council and half a dozen independent Democrats also hold seats.

His party Tuesday launched a legal challenge to China's handpicked interim assembly, opposed by some Western countries planning to boycott its inauguration directly after the handover ceremony. The Democrats face a year in the wilderness after China takes over Hong Kong.

On July 1, Hong Kong, a British colony for 156 years, will become a special administrative region of China with autonomy.

The United States and Britain have led Western concern about Chinese plans to dissolve the elected Legislative Council and install its appointed Provisional Assembly until 1998 elections.

The Democrats are not included in the provisional body, which is packed with pro-China politicians and tycoons.

At China's bidding, future Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa is also introducing new election rules involving proportional representation or multi-seat constituencies.

These measures will drastically slash the chances of the Democrats, who benefited from a first-past-the-post system in the 1995 elections, the first under universal franchise.

Mr. Lee, a prominent barrister, has said the changes are a deliberate ploy to reduce the influence of Hong Kong's most popular political party.

He told the alumni group Democrats would have just 13 seats based on his calculations of how they would perform in the profession-based functional constituencies and in geographical constituencies to be created under the new system.

Mr. Tung met Mr. Lee Tuesday and assured him the Democratic Party will not be cast out into the cold after the handover.

But the Beijing-appointed chief executive rejected a party request to leave intact the present election system introduced by colonial Governor Chris Patten, Mr. Lee said.

Meanwhile, Pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong said Wednesday civic authorities had refused to allow them to hold a rally in a public park on the day of the territory's handover to China.

The application was made by the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China, which grew out of protests against Beijing's bloody crackdown on a student-led pro-democracy movement in 1989.

Hong Kong's urban council rejected a request to stage a public meeting in city-centre Victoria Park, the alliance said.

The alliance, Hong Kong's main mass movement campaigning for greater democracy in China and Hong Kong, plans a big march on July 1, the first day of Chinese rule.

Urban councillor and alliance Chairman Szeto Wah said they were disappointed but they had expected obstacles. "It's a kind of political vetting," Mr. Szeto said.

He said he would launch the proposal again at another urban council meeting next week.

The council's Recreation Committee had earlier approved the use of part of the park for handover celebrations on the same day by a pro-China Women's Federation.

## China to station 6,000 troops in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — China will station up to 6,000 troops in Hong Kong after it resumes control of the territory from the British on July 1, a Hong Kong newspaper said Wednesday.

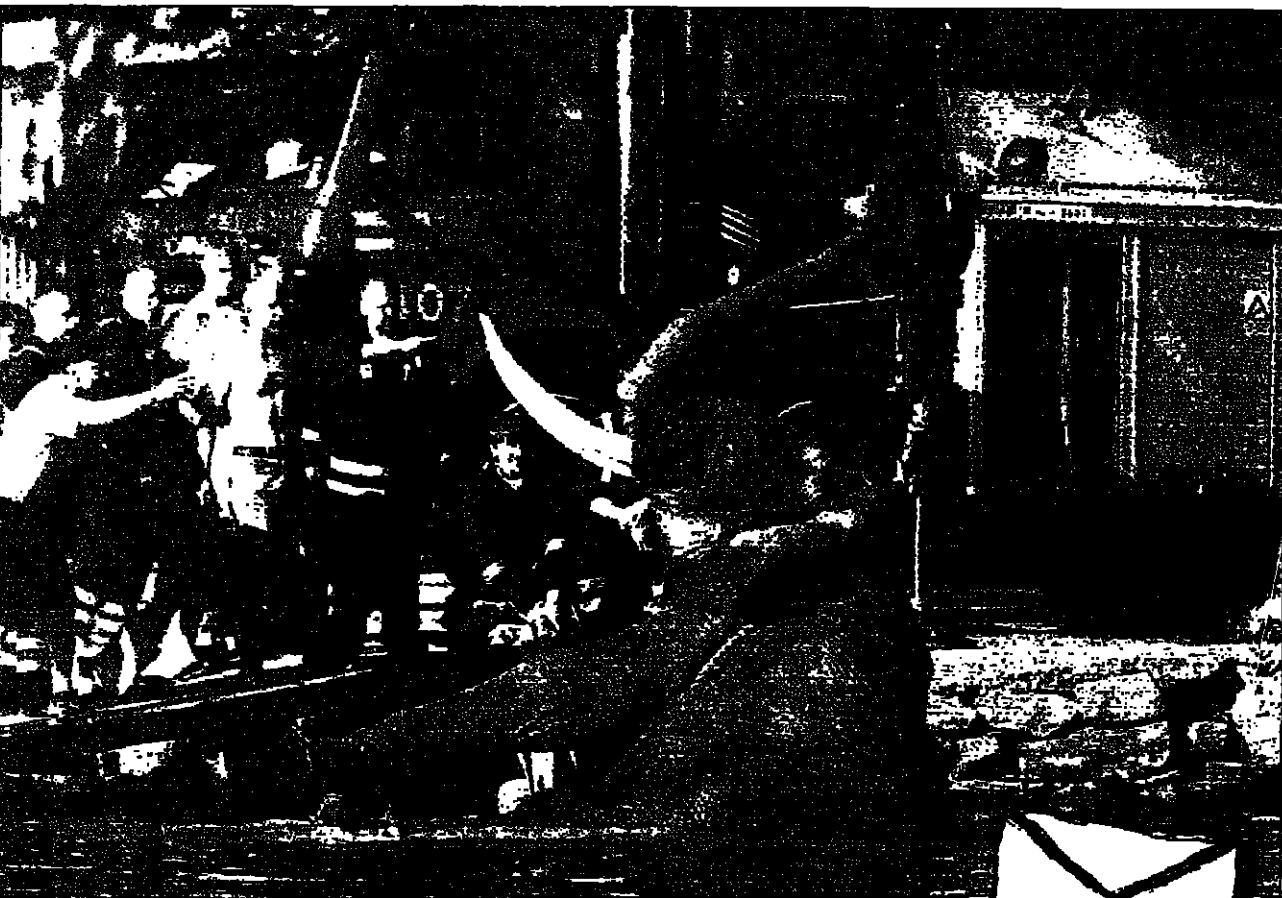
The independent Chinese language daily Ming Pao quoted sources as saying 2,000 soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) would arrive in the territory at the stroke of midnight on June 30.

The remainder of the garrison would move into the territory in the early hours on July 1, it said.

The territory of 6.4 million has been kept in the dark by China over the size of its PLA garrison in Hong Kong.

Beijing has only said that the size of the garrison, which will be made up of ground, naval and air forces, would be no more than 10,000, the same level as the British contingent at its peak.

Many in Hong Kong remember the PLA's role in the 1989 massacre in Beijing, when its tanks crushed a pro-democracy movement centred on Tiananmen Square.



RESCUED: Circus elephant Sahib is rescued by Swedish fire fighters and police officers after a swim because of loose, muddy soil. Sahib was close to drowning after being rescued from the water after his summer dip before the evening circus show (Reuters photo)





Soldiers stand guard outside the Cockerill Military Headquarters. Given recent reports of a potential attack by the Nigerian-led West African Peacekeeping Force (ECOMOG) Sierra Leonean military remains on alert (Reuters photo)

## Nigerian soldiers clash with Sierra Leonean troops

FREETOWN (AFP) — Nigerian troops clashed with Sierra Leonean soldiers overnight at the Lungi International Airport near Freetown sparking fear among residents that the fighting would spread to the capital.

State radio reported no casualties and said that the situation was calm Wednesday morning.

Residents living near the airport, located about 20 kilometres from the capital, said they heard heavy weapons fire for about 15 minutes late Tuesday.

"Everyone thought it was

the start of the imminent invasion by Nigerian led ECOMOG troops and we dived under our beds to escape fragments falling on our house," one resident said.

State radio played down the incident, attributing it to a misunderstanding between the two sides.

Nigerian troops and Sierra Leone soldiers have been vying for control of the airport since the May 25 coup by the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council that ousted elected President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

Nigeria has vowed to rein-

state Mr. Kabbah by force if necessary.

Meanwhile, Nigeria has sent two additional warships to Sierra Leone to back up Nigerian-led ECOMOG troops stationed there and in the event of a military operation to oust the new junta, press reports said here Wednesday.

The two vessels, the Aradu and the Ekpe, headed to Freetown Monday, the official Daily Times said quoting a communiqué by the navy command.

The warships will join two other vessels dispatched to Sierra Leone in

early June. Those vessels took part in the bombing of Freetown on June 2 that left scores dead.

The navy communiqué said that the Aradu warship is equipped with anti-aircraft missiles as well as 40 mm guns. The Ekpe is also equipped with missiles.

The West African Peacekeeping Force (ECOMOG) has in recent days continued deploying mostly Nigerian troops to Sierra Leone. Informal sources say ECOMOG had 4,000 soldiers in the country as of the end of last week.

## Senators reportedly reach deal on paying U.S. debt to U.N.

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms and other senators reached a deal Tuesday on a bill that would pay most of Washington's back debts to the United Nations, the Washington Post said.

Under the proposed deal, the United States would pay the world body \$819 million over three years in return for U.N. spending cuts and other concessions, the newspaper reported in Wednesday editions.

Climton administration officials told the paper they supported the proposed legislation, reached after weeks of negotiations over details affecting reorganization of America's foreign policy agencies.

The bill, due to be marked up by the Senate panel Thursday, represents a major breakthrough in the logjam between the administration and Sen. Helms, a North Carolina Republican. It must pass both the House

and Senate before becoming law.

The bill would authorize payment of \$819 million in back dues and assessments owed to the United Nations, and would forgive \$106 million that Washington says it is owed by the United Nations.

The United Nations puts Washington's back debts at over \$1 billion and disputes that it owes Washington \$106 million.

The bill, negotiated by Sen. Helms and the ranking Democrat on the panel, Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware, would require the United Nations to accept the total \$925 million as payment in full.

The U.S. payments would also be conditioned on a reduction in the percentage of the U.N. budget that the United States is required to pay each year, according to the newspaper report.

No comment was immediately available from the staffs of Sen. Helms or Sen.

Biden. The State Department was also unavailable to comment on the plan.

"We're concerned with some provisions of the legislation, but the bill is a major step in the right direction," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson told the Post.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other U.S. officials have argued that U.S. arrears have eroded its credibility with the world body.

The bill would also merge the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the United States Information Agency into the State Department, in line with President Bill Clinton's proposal, as well as giving the State Department more control over the Agency for International Development.

Additionally, the bill would ban major U.N. conferences in cities other than New York, Geneva, Rome and Vienna.

## Karachi violence toll rises to 17

KARACHI (AFP) — Two more people were shot dead Wednesday in Karachi, bringing the death toll from three days of renewed unrest in the Pakistani city to 17, police and hospital officials said.

Police found the bullet-riddled body of Irshad Beg, an activist of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), in the Central Federal Area district. Another person died in sniper shooting in eastern Gulshan Iqbal neighbourhood.

Beg was abducted Tuesday, MQM sources said, adding that his body bearing "torture" marks was found before dawn.

At least five activists of MQM and a breakaway faction known as MQM-Haqiqi have died in a renewed wave of killings to hit Karachi this week. Twelve other people have also been killed in incidents around the city Monday and Tuesday, police and residents said.

The killing of the MQM activist Wednesday heightened tensions in eastern districts and angry youths set ablaze at least three vehicles, residents said. People also lit fires, blocking roads in the Landhi district.

Security has been beefed up and the authorities have deployed heavy force of paramilitary Rangers and police at vulnerable points, officials said.

"We have increased patrols in the sensitive areas to ensure the safety of common citizens," Karachi's Police Chief Malik Iqbal told AFP.

Karachi was rocked by two years of ethnic, political and religious violence while Benazir Bhutto was prime minister up to last November.

More than 2,000 people were killed in unrest until Ms. Bhutto was ousted on charges of misrule and corruption.

Markets and shops remained closed Wednesday in much of eastern Karachi where most roads were deserted.

## U.S. assesses Brazzaville evacuation as battles rage

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Mortar explosions and gunfire have kept thundering across the Congo capital Brazzaville with no sign of a truce in the week-long political and ethnic fighting.

Battles between forces supporting President Pascal Lissouba and militia warriors loyal to former Marxist ruler Denis Sassou Nguesso appeared Tuesday to be spilling into the Baongo district that has so far been relatively calm.

Three large shells landed in Baongo district, under the control of Brazzaville Mayor Bernard Kolelas's "Ninja" militia. The Ninjas have so far stayed out of the fighting while Mr. Kolelas tries to mediate.

Mr. Kolelas's spokesman Heliot Mampouya told Reuters Tuesday: "We can see the shells come from the presidency because we are just 500 metres away."

"We can see they are being deliberately directed towards Baongo, someone wants to drag us into the fighting, I doubt whether it is President Lissouba himself, but he doesn't control all his entourage," he added.

He said the mayor was pursuing his search for a truce. "Kolelas saw Lissouba today and we will be seeing Sassou tomorrow and after that we will know what the result of negotiations is going to be," Mr. Mampouya said.

A U.S. military plane flew out 30 Americans and 24 other foreign residents although Washington said it had not yet decided whether the remaining Americans needed rescue.

The C-130 plane had brought in a dozen U.S. military communications specialists, security troops and planners to make an on-the-spot assessment of the dangers to foreign residents.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon told reporters there were believed to be some 60 Americans in Brazzaville including about 15 workers at the embassy, which remained open despite the fighting.

U.S. Navy ships and Marines have been increasingly drawn into rescue missions for Americans and other foreigners trapped by turmoil in west and central Africa. Last week U.S. helicopters airlifted hundreds of people fleeing violence in Sierra Leone to the U.S. carrier Kearsarge.

The United States Monday called for a ceasefire in the Congo fighting and said it believed presidential elections could still be held on schedule on July 27.

On Tuesday, French armoured cars protected convoys of civilian vehicles driven by French, Lebanese and other expatriate volunteers as they moved to different parts of the city centre.

France has sent 400 troops to reinforce the 450 already in Brazzaville, where they were dispatched in March in case foreigners needed to be evacuated from Kinshasa.

French embassy officials said between 700 and 800 foreigners were flown out of Brazzaville Monday in military transport planes to the Gabon capital Libreville. They said more than 1,000 French citizens could still be in the Brazzaville area. Congo Brazzaville is a former French colony.

Bloody street battles between soldiers and militiamen loyal to Mr. Lissouba and Mr. Sassou Nguesso's Cobra militia fighters flared and subsided through the city centre

since Thursday.

On Tuesday fighting raged close to the international airport, grounding a charter that was to ferry people to Kinshasa, capital of neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

Residents said scores of bloated bodies lay uncollected in the streets. Looting had spread from other districts to the capital's central commercial area, they added.

Political and ethnic conflict killed 2,000 people in the city in 1993 and has exploded again in the run-up to elections. Meanwhile, French evacuees from the Congolese capital said Wednesday that the "slaughter" there was reminiscent of the civil war in Beirut.

An Air France Jumbo Jet landed at Charles De Gaulle Airport north of Paris early Wednesday bringing 320 French civilians from Libreville in Gabon where they had been taken from Brazzaville in a rescue operation organised by French troops.

"Without the French army we would not have gotten out. It was a real butchery in Brazzaville. It reminded me of the pictures of Beirut," said a shopkeeper who had lived in Congo for 10 years.

"I am disgusted at the incompetence and inefficiency of the French consular and diplomatic services in trying to get the French community out of Pointe Noire (the country's main port) and Brazzaville and out of that slaughter and the bombs," a young woman said.

A jurist who asked not to be identified said: "Many people intend to bring legal action for failure to assist people in danger" — a criminal offence under French law.

"The streets were littered with bodies of Congolese," a French aid worker said. "Buildings were completely destroyed in Brazzaville and the military losses suffered by the French were due to lack of organisation between the military authorities and the French Foreign Ministry," he added, alluding to the death of a French soldier Saturday in a clash in which five more French soldiers were wounded.

"We were housed at Charles De Gaulle Camp in Libreville by the French army," said a woman passenger. She said "about 30 children on this flight have been traumatised since we left Brazzaville by what they saw."

She said she had to step over bodies when she left her home to board a French army lorry sent to collect French citizens scattered around the capital.

She said her house was in the middle of a fierce hand-to-hand battle between Congolese forces.

"Cooperation between our army and our political leaders was bad," said a young man who taught French at a Brazzaville high school. "The army was doing its best to repatriate us via Gabon while the French embassy was only concerned with protecting the safety of the Congolese president."

A French expatriate doctor said the French army had been "super."

"It's revolting what's going on in Brazzaville, to let government troops go on pounding densely populated areas," he added.

## Minister: Russian army reforms to focus on battle-ready units

MOSCOW (AFP) — Reforms to Russia's crumbling armed forces will concentrate on further developing currently battle-ready units, Defence Minister Igor Sergeev said Wednesday.

"It is important to concentrate our forces on maintaining combat-ready units which have well-developed military infrastructures, modern equipment and weapons," the recently appointed defence minister said at a televised veterans' meeting.

Four major units "of the future" will be created next year — two for the Moscow region, one in the Far East and one in the unstable North Caucasus region, he said.

"We have to do the most important thing: To cut out distortion of budget financing for the armed forces," he said. "Time is of the essence."

Interfax News Agency quoted unnamed military experts saying that these units would coordinate air, naval and mobile ground forces.

Mr. Sergeev said that the number of training centres was likely to shrink, as part of the armed forces' attempt to streamline its approximately 1.5-million-man

Russia to meet commitment for Alpha thanks to loan

MOSCOW (AFP) — The deputy head of the Russian Space Agency was quoted Wednesday as saying Russia faced no further problems in meeting its commitments in the international effort to build the Alpha Space Station.

Boris Ostroumov said this was thanks to a 1.5 trillion ruble (\$261 million) paper loan by the government to Russian space sector plants which are building a service module for the international orbiting station, ITAR TASS news agency reported.

According to Mr. Ostroumov, disbursement of the last 700 billion rubles (\$122 million) of that loan is imminent.

The module is to be the third constituent of Alpha and will be ready for launching on Dec. 15-20, 1998.

Mr. Sergeev also said that the defence industry should develop weapons in line with a major reequipping of the army and navy

planned between 2001 and 2005.

President Boris Yeltsin, who has long been pressing for a leaner, leaner military, said in a message to the veterans' meeting Wednesday that their "personal example is especially important now." Interfax reported.

On Monday Mr. Yeltsin approved Mr. Sergeev's reform proposals after a Kremlin meeting.

Military reforms have continuously stalled since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the army's lack of combat readiness was glaringly shown up in the failed, 21-month attempt to crush an independence rebellion in Chechnya.

For the first time, civilian officials are increasingly responsible for carrying out the reforms.

A development commission, to be headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, will lay out immediate reforms and the concept of future development between 2001 and 2005.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, also finance minister, will chair a second commission confronting the armed forces' chronic financial problems.

## Expert says Turin Shroud older than tests say

TURIN, Italy (R) — The Turin Shroud, one of the most mysterious of Catholic relics that was saved from a fire in April, could be much older than tests have stated, an American scientific expert said Tuesday.

Professor Alan Adler, one of two foreign scientists attending a news conference to announce new conservation measures for the Shroud, said that the enigmatic cloth was "not a painting and does not date from the 14th century."

"The marks on the Shroud are of exuded blood, belonging to a man who was tortured and crucified," he added. "It cannot be from the 14th century, but is much older and far more consistent with what we know of the crucifixion of Christ."

Some Catholics believe that the Shroud, which carries the blood-stained image of a crucified man, was the winding sheet that wrapped the body of Christ. Prof. Adler said it was possible the Shroud dated from the 7th century.

He referred to another shroud in Oviedo, Spain which had been carbon-dated to the 7th century and bore marks "85 per cent consistent" with the Turin Shroud, although the bloodstains on the Spanish one were more "fluid."

Prof. Adler said it was therefore possible to surmise that the Spanish Shroud could have been placed on the body first and then covered by that in Turin.

"The Oviedo Shroud has been dated through carbon dating to the seventh century, therefore it is possible that the Turin Shroud is of the same date," he said.

After carbon dating tests in 1988, three laboratories in England, U.S. and Switzerland said it was 95 per cent certain that the Turin cloth dated from between 1260 and 1390, suggesting it was a mediaeval fake.

## Sri Lanka battle toll hits 328

COLOMBO (AFP) — More than 320 troops, rebels and civilians were killed in the latest battles for control of northern Sri Lanka, the Defence Ministry said Wednesday.

The bodies of 58 army commandos were recovered after Tuesday's close-quarter fighting in Vavuniya district, where 60 civilians were also killed, defence officials said.

They said 210 guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were also killed and more than 300 wounded. A Defence Ministry statement said 98 commandos were also wounded.

Tiger rebels admitted losing 50 cadres, claimed killing "hundreds" of government soldiers and said they destroyed a key army base and five tanks.

The Defence Ministry said only one tank had been destroyed and that three artillery guns were blown up by troops themselves to prevent them falling into guerrilla hands.

The ministry admitted Tuesday that the rebels blew up a government ammunition dump.

Residents in Vavuniya, 260 kilometres north of here, said LTTE rebels pulled back from the town of Thandikulam, just north of Vavuniya, after devastating the army's "55-Brigade" headquarters.

Junior Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, who is leading the government campaign against the Tigers, said the rebels pounded civilian areas in Vavuniya and killed 60 men, women and children.

"The retreating LTTE terrorists also fired heavy artillery on the civilian population close to Vavuniya, killing over 60 men, women and children," Mr. Ratwatte was quoted as saying in the state-run Daily News.

"Our troops expected this attack and that

is how they were able to repulse it and force them to beat a hasty retreat," Mr. Ratwatte said. "When they can't attack the head they attack the tail."

The Tiger onslaught was concentrated at Thandikulam as troops advanced from there into territory held by the guerrillas further north in a bid to open a key highway.

Tuesday's fighting in Vavuniya was the bloodiest counter-attack against government forces since they launched a major drive code named "Sure Of Victory" into rebel-held territory on May 13.

Defence sources said the Tiger counter-attack will considerably slow the military advance.

The army has deployed two divisions, some 20,000 men, to open the road to Jaffna, the former Tiger bastion which was captured by the army in December 1995.

Troops have advanced only about 15 kilometres and need to cover another 60 kilometres.

A Russian-built Mi-24 attack helicopter was also hit by the guerrillas. The pilots landed safely but the aircraft was unserviceable, official sources said.

An ammunition dump at Thandikulam was destroyed by the Tigers who blew up the nearby Notchchimomai Bridge along the main highway to Jaffna.

Vavuniya residents said life in the district was slowly returning to normal Wednesday and shops opened after being shut Tuesday.

Before the attack, at least 150 government soldiers and 410 Tiger rebels had been killed according to military estimates. The rebels say they lost under 100 cadres killed.

The Tiger guerrillas are campaigning for independence in the island's north and east. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the separatist conflict in the past 25 years.



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## Placing faith where it belongs

BENYAMIN NETANYAHU's political fate is once again in the hands of the High Court. On Sunday the court will decide whether to overrule an earlier decision by state prosecutors not to indict the prime minister for fraud and breach of trust or to uphold it. Police in Israel had recommended that Netanyahu, Justice Minister Tzachi Hanegbi and Knesset member Aryeh Deri of the religious Shas Party be charged with fraud and breach of trust in connection with the scandal related to the short-lived appointment of Roni Bar-On as Israel's attorney general last January. At the time, state prosecutors dismissed the police recommendation and decided to charge only Deri.

A state prosecutor's job is to charge a person with the commission of a crime if there is a prima facie case against him or her. It is not his/her role to assess evidence and determine whether it is credible and sufficient enough to convict an accused person. That responsibility lies with the court. The rule of thumb in criminal prosecution is that the court of first instance bears the responsibility of determining whether there is sufficient evidence to incriminate an accused man or woman after sifting through the evidence brought forward by the prosecution and defence. When the Israeli state prosecutors decided on their own that there was no sufficient evidence against Netanyahu and the justice minister, they acted more like a court than state prosecutors.

Only in the context of criminal litigation, where the two sides in a criminal case would be accorded equal opportunities to submit their respective evidence, can the truth be established. By denying the justice system the indispensable opportunity to render a judgement in this case after weighing all the evidence for or against the accused persons, the state prosecutors have acted in an ultra vires manner and hampered the proper administration of justice.

A truly telling sign in this case was the remark made by Netanyahu in the wake of the state prosecutor's decision: "The bottom line is I didn't commit any crime and the attorney general confirmed that."

Is it not the sole duty of the court system to make such a confirmation or determination especially when there is a 995-page police report that appears to incriminate the prime minister and the minister of justice?

The High Court of Justice in Israel bears a heavy burden in this situation. The image and credibility of the court are on the line. Whether to act juridically or opt for politically prudent must tax the conscience of each and every judge on the high bench.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily accused the United States of exercising pressure on the Arabs to attend the Doha economic summit and to accept Israel as part of that summit, like they did at the Casablanca and Amman economic meetings. Tareq Masarweh said accepting Israel as a participant in the Doha meeting means endorsing Benjamin Netanyahu's current measures in Palestine, his disregard of the peace accords and his determination to build Jewish settlements on Arab territories. The writer said the United States has invited the Qatari ruler to visit Washington as part of its continued pressures on the Arabs to accept Israel amongst them within the so-called new Middle East order; and its aim, of course, is to allow the Jewish state to incorporate its economy into those of the Arab states and not to benefit the Arab economies. Washington realises too well that Israel's policies have driven most of the Arabs to the verge of despair and that they are convinced that no peace is being achieved in their region except the peace that is endorsed by the U.S.-Israeli alliance and favouring only the Jewish state, he added. Washington also realises that with the rise of Mr. Netanyahu and the fall of Rabin and Peres, chances for peace have grown dimmer than ever before, he said. But despite these facts, he added, Washington is still trying desperately to convince the Arabs and their businessmen that they are bound to benefit from their dealings with the Jewish state.

A WRITER for the weekly Al Sabeel urged the political groups which have voiced their opposition to the temporary laws on press and publications and the one-person, one vote elections system to boycott the coming general elections. Fakhri Kassar said the coming elections will not be held in a democratic climate because of these two laws and there is a big gap between the government's views and those of the public represented by the opposition parties with regard to these laws. This means that the coming general elections will be held in an atmosphere favourable to the government and not in the interest of the masses, he pointed out. The writer said it is not enough for the opposition parties to express their views at meetings and in the media, denouncing the government's actions and accusing it of arranging for general elections in November in a manner to suit its own views and policies. He said if these parties do not agree with the present government policies and are oriented against the temporary laws, especially the elections law, they should not rush to the Ministry of Interior to nominate their candidates for the elections. He said that these parties should set an example to the people if they wish to win further credibility.

## The View from Academia

## Summer time and the need to invest more fruitfully in children

FOR MOST children in our part of the world (and for their parents), the summer time is a rough time indeed. There is a unpleasant paradox here. The summer holiday is supposed to be fun. No matter how enjoyable school is, and for most it is hardly enjoyable, students love breaks better. For most students (the diligent as well as the lazy, the excelling as well as the mediocre), there is, for instance, no joy compared to that of hearing of a lesson cancelled. But even though students look forward, with a great deal of excitement and anticipation, to the summer vacation, the minute the vacation starts, the disappointing anticlimax begins to be slowly but heavily felt.

The reason is simple: students do not know what to do with themselves. There is so much time (summer days are noticeably longer and the vacation itself is long) and so little to do. The shift from confinement and responsibility (during school days) to freedom and liberty (during the holiday) is so radical, most are unable to cope. For the majority of them, especially in the less privileged areas, the summer time is a trauma.

A friend of mine told me the other day that his nine-year-old son woke up crying. What was the matter? Well, he was bored. "What do you mean you are bored? You spend most of your time playing with your friends." Upon further inquiry the parent found out that his son's best friend was spending most of his time at his uncle's car repair shop and his son also wanted to "work" as a car mechanic during the vacation. "Where can I get you a mechanic who will accept to host you for the whole summer, and what do you plan to do there?"

One does not know how good an idea it is for a nine-

year-old to work as a car mechanic for the summer, especially with the recklessness there is in the profession with respect to safety measures. But is it a good idea for my friend's son (and millions like him) to spend his time playing with his friends from morning to midnight?

And what is meant by "playing"? Well, mainly soccer in the alleys and streets. One could argue that soccer is good for children: they get their day's physical exercise. And as they keep screaming while playing, they also release much negative energy, thus getting the day's psychological exercise as well.

But playing soccer in the streets is a nuisance to the neighbours, a damage to the neighbourhood, a danger to the children themselves — in addition to the fact that too much of it is, well, too much. What does one learn playing soccer the whole three months — and not even soccer according to how it should be played?

Think of the waste. We are emphasising investment in education and in our citizen these days. "The individual is our most precious asset." Is not it a great waste, for our own individuals and for the country at large, to ignore our children and our students during the summer time where a great deal can happen?

Some parents, a minority, invest in their children during the summer. They make it a point to find something entertaining and useful for them.

But there are two main problems at this level. The first is that parents who invest in their children in the summer are a minority. The second is that many (though not all) of the activities children get involved in are not up to the standards we want. The last thing you want, for example,

is a replica of school days.

The summer time should be invested in something radically different from what students and parents invest in during the school year. It may be a good idea to devote part of the day to a certain lesson in a certain subject (computer science, math, Arabic, English, etc.) but most of the day should be spent in pursuing a hobby or an activity that school days interfere with, something that helps the mental, psychological, spiritual, moral, artistic, literary, athletic, etc. development of our children.

Many parents (if not all) are willing to help their kids (and themselves) do something fun and useful. But most of them do not know what and how. The first thing that is required then is advice for parents on what to do. The ministries of education, youth, and culture and the Greater Amman Municipality and Municipal Councils throughout the Kingdom may want to chip in and volunteer both ideas and programmes to help children and parents spend the summer vacation fruitfully.

Also people (i.e. individuals) who have some good suggestions for parents (out of expertise or experience) should speak out and suggest. This is the time to do it. Is it a wild (or idealistic) idea for the more privileged (institutions and individuals) to help the less privileged? Is not there a greater room for serious volunteer work in the summer?

The three-month summer vacation is long enough for the pursuit of serious (and fun) activities, hobbies and things to do. It is a shame to let it go to waste. Forcing children on car repair shops and the neighbourhood's streets and alleys is hardly the solution.

## Free press sees red over gag on 'yellow journalism'

By Shakil Shaikh

## ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's government is planning to turn temporary press curbs into law in the name of freedom of information.

The man behind the move is believed to be journalist-turned-politician Syed Mushahid Hussain, who is adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on information and media development.

In an attempt to justify official action, Mushahid Hussain says: "The government has to be strategically involved in bridging the gap between the information-rich and information-poor."

Under the plan, the government will take the Freedom of Information Ordinance — promulgated by the caretaker administration that was in power before the February general election — and turn it in to an Act of Parliament,

perhaps adding to its provisions.

The ordinance bans the use of information taken from a range of government documents, including any paper the government declares is "classified," records of banks and financial institutions relating to customers' accounts, records relating to personal privacy and other records deemed private.

A former law minister and judge, Fakhruddin Ebrahim, criticised the measure, saying it could be used as "an instrument for denial of information."

Journalists are angry at the plan to place it on the statute book, and have given warning that the move is potentially damaging.

"The press in this country is one of the few institutions that has, against all odds, fought for freedom of expression and rule of law," commented the

Islamabad-based English daily newspaper, The Nation. "It has also rendered many sacrifices for that. Attempts to weaken it will be disastrous for the country."

"It needs to be said that unnecessary checks on the press can only cripple its ability to serve the cause of democracy."

Rehana Hakim, editor of the Karachi-based English monthly Newline, points out: "There is no system of checks and balances in our country and if we want the press to play the role of a watchdog, they have to have access to information of any category."

The debate focuses on

the press because radio and television are government-controlled.

Newspapers have grown in number and circulation since the restoration of democracy in 1985. The constitution guarantees press freedom, "subject to any reasonable restrictions" linked to national security, morality and law

and order.

New legislative action appears linked to official anger over a series of highly critical — or, in the government's view, irresponsible — reports.

Attacks such as those as "yellow journalism," Mushahid Hussain, an academic who was editor

of an English newspaper, The Muslim, from 1984 to 1986, resurrected the term to describe a number of stories disliked by his masters.

In talks with him on the government's plans, a delegation from the All Pakistan Newspapers Society explained there was a difference between inaccurate reporting — which sometimes happened because of time pressure or human error — and "yellow journalism," which implied deliberate smears.

The society suggested the establishment of a press council, consisting of media representatives, which could use its moral authority to control any "irresponsible elements."

The prime minister's adviser on law and justice, Khalid Anwar, has dismissed the idea of self-regulation as ineffective, saying: "The government had to do something to

keep irresponsible newspapers in check."

However, a former information minister, Altaf Gauhar, who also worked for the London-based international news magazine South, urged the government: "Stop worrying about the media. The people can distinguish between responsible journalism and yellow journalism, and an aggrieved person can always take irresponsible journalists to court."

Many journalists agree, pointing out that new laws are unnecessary, since the government can deny or contradict reports or even take legal action.

The public also appears to believe that the government move is simply another attempt to weaken the power of the press, which virtually every Pakistani government has tried to do.

Gemini News Service

## French corruption probes could hit Chirac

By Geoffrey Varley  
Agence France Presse

PARIS — Corruption probes into French President Jacques Chirac's Rally for the Republic (RPR) could reach up to the president himself following a conservative defeat in general elections on June 1 that brought tough minded woman Socialist Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou to office.

New impetus could be given to long-running investigations of illegal financing of the RPR through fake invoicing and inflated tenders for public contracts in the capital, where Chirac was mayor for many years.

Already former centrist ministers Pierre Mehaugier, Bernard Bosson and Jacques Barrot have been formally indicted in connection with a funding scam for their party, the democratic force, a component of the centre right Union for French Democracy (UDF), an RPR ally.

Mr. Mehaugier was justice minister in the government of Edouard Balladur from 1993-95, while Mr. Barrot was labour minister under the outgoing government of Alain Juppe. Mr. Bosson was transport minister in Balladur's government.

The former finance minister in the Juppe government, Jean Arthuis, had

also been named in the funding of the centrist party, involving business contributions to a Swiss bank account used to finance party conferences and a European Parliament campaign in 1989. But Mr. Arthuis was not charged when the three other former ministers were indicted last week.

France's Socialist Party and its high-profile leader, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin Louis, have promised to clarify the relationship between the country's prosecutors and the justice minister, often accused of shelving sensitive cases for political reasons.

Mr. Jospin had alleged the general elections were called to enable the right to amnesty corruption scandals involving rightwing figures.

The investigative weekly Canard Enchaîné had reported that former Gaullist Premier Alain Juppe was planning a corruption amnesty for outstanding cases and a reform of legislation on abuse of corporate assets if he was reelected.

When Mr. Chirac called early elections on April 21, ultra-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen said the president's move was aimed at stifling the investigations into the RPR. "Chirac knows that the judicial probes which are going through the RPR could

reach him," Mr. Le Pen said.

In Paris, anti-corruption magistrate Eric Halphen is investigating suspected illegal funding of the RPR through fake invoicing for contracts awarded by the capital's city hall for public housing.

Mr. Halphen has indicted Georges Perol, a Gaullist deputy close to Mr. Chirac in his Correz stronghold in central France, and Jean-Claude Mery, a property developer and one-time member of the RPR Central Committee.

Mr. Halphen conducted searches at RPR headquarters in Paris, at the capital's regional council HQ, and at the home of Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi.

Since October 1995, Mr. Halphen has regularly received anonymous letters from a highly-placed "deep throat" blowing the gaff on RPR funding.

Another magistrate, Patrick Desmures, has uncovered a system for bypassing public tenders and has indicted Louise-Yvonne Casetta, nicknamed "Money Box," and said to have been the RPR's unofficial treasurer.

Mr. Desmures is also investigating salaries paid by a number of firms to two RPR secretaries at Casetta's request.

In another case involving Gerard Longuet, industry minister in the Balladur government, a Longuet

aide, Genia Constantinoff, was charged with abuse of corporate assets and embezzlement for receiving a commission of 16 million francs (\$3.2 million) after he intervened on behalf of a French company involved in Kuwait.

Some of the money was allegedly paid into accounts run by banker Alain Cellier, an associate of Longuet, who financed funding of Longuet's Republican Party, a component of the UDF.

Meanwhile Mr. Tiberi has been indicted for abuse of corporate assets in the case of an apparently bogus report written by his wife, Xaviere, for the Essonne Regional Council, south of Paris.

Mr. Tiberi was charged because the 200,000 franc (\$40,000) fee for the report was paid into the Tiberis' joint bank account.

He denies having negotiated the fee for the report with the president of the Essonne General Council, Xavier Dugoin.

A copy of the Tiberi report was found by Mr. Halphen when he searched the Tiberis' Paris apartment last June.

Last November French authorities hired a helicopter to scour Himalayan peaks for a judicial official who was holidaying in Nepal, allegedly in a bid to save Xaviere Tiberi from an embezzlement indictment.

## LETTERS

## 'Grotesque selectivity'

To the Editor:

ACCORDING TO BBC news, Newt Gingrich is outraged at the Palestinian National Authority for levying the death penalty against Palestinians who sell land to Jews. Of course all extra-judicial killing is to be condemned. But why is the moral sensibility of the U.S. Congress so selective? One can hear no such outrage when Israel targets civilians in Lebanon, killing over 100 as happened last year at Cana; Israel aimed, with U.S. precision technology, a murderous artillery barrage at this U.N. base to cover the operations of an Israeli death squad known as Egoz. This death squad operates in South Lebanon where, intelligence sources estimate, it has been responsible for the extra legal killing of some 66 Lebanese who were defending their land against illegal Israeli occupation.

But the U.S. Congress has nothing to say when Israeli murder Arabs. Nor when Jewish settlers in Hebron open fire on Palestinian civilians. Nor when U.N./U.S. sanctions against Iraq result in the painful death from starvation and curable diseases of thousands of civilians, many of them children under five.

This imbalance in U.S. moral sensibility causes total cynicism and undermines any possible respect for American pronouncements on the subject of the "rule of law."

The Israeli government is robbing the Palestinians of their land every day, against the clear pronouncements of international law and U.N. resolutions. Yet outrage on Capitol Hill is not roused by wholesale Israeli theft, torture and murder of Palestinians; instead it pays for and defends Israeli actions.

If this grotesque selectivity is not obvious to Newt Gingrich, he will be the only person surprised to realise that worldwide the U.S. has lost the last shreds of credibility. The U.S. had better pay its U.N. dues and support all U.N. resolutions, and try to conceal with more discretion its flagrantly one-sided moral outrage.

Dr. A. Clare Brandabur,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

## Society on the Move

## People topping lists can be all the rage

As has been an unwritten practice at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the upper posts at the society are usually filled first by candidates from the RSS's own ranks. Thus the appointment of Said Alloush Wednesday as RSS president by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, who is chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, was not a surprise in one sense. But it was somewhat unexpected if only because Dr. Alloush, a chemist with a masters and Ph.D. from German universities, was named acting president of the society only two and a half months ago when, then President Hani Mulki was appointed as a minister in the cabinet of Abdul Salam Majali. The rather swift promotion seals recognition of Dr. Alloush's contributions to science and technology endeavours in Jordan since the mid-70s and Dr. Mulki's advancement into the country's higher decision and policy-making spheres.

**POLLING THE COLUMNISTS:** It has been said that it was the politician's desperation for reassurance combined with a journalist's curiosity which led to the rise of public opinion polling. Be that as it may, when news reports on the annual opinion poll on trends in Jordan's democratisation (conducted by the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS)) mentioned that there was a sharp decline in the readership of daily newspapers, daily columnists and the weekly press, only one columnist pursued the subject. Coming out on top of the poll's results of the country's most widely-read columnists, economic/political writer Fahed Fanek published those particular results in his very own column. Adding comment and analysis to the table, Dr. Fanek said he did not want to keep the information to himself. His gesture, as well as the polls results (see table) sent many of his associates reeling both at him and at the CSS.

Al Ra'i's Fahri Kavar rejected Dr. Fanek's analysis that his move from Ad Dustour to Al Ra'i benefited his rating in the poll. In his column Mr. Kavar, who came in second along with his colleague Sultan Khattab in the poll, wrote that Dr. Fanek was implying that he had switched from Ad Dustour to Al Ra'i at the time of the poll taking. Mr. Kavar would not even have obtained half the approval rating he actually had received.

Also from Al Ra'i, Tareq Masarweh directed his fire towards the CSS, saying that the poll results are part and parcel of a campaign launched against the country's civil institutions, including the press, political parties, parliament, elections and professional associations, in a bid to marginalise the country's political system.

Nabil Sharif, chief editor of Ad Dustour, complained of the fairness of the question on columnist's popularity in the poll. He maintained that the poll should not have lumped daily columnists with weekly columnists. He found it unfair that he himself, a weekly columnist, was listed with the daily

### Table of results as published by Fahed Fanek in Al Ra'i from a public opinion poll conducted by the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies

Name	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Fahed Fanek	69	51.5%
Fakhri Kavar	37	27.6
Sultan Khattab	37	27.6
Munes Razzaz	35	26.1
Tareq Masarweh	31	23.1
Saleh Qallab	18	13.4
Taher Adwan	13	9.7
George Haddad	8	6.0
Hamadeh Faraaneh	8	6.0
Mahmoud Rimawi	7	5.2
Khairi Monsour	6	4.5
Bassim Sakijah	6	4.5
Ahmad Musleh	5	3.7
Nabil Sharif	2	1.5
Mustafa Abu Libdeh	2	1.5
Oraib Rantawi	1	0.7

NOTE: Only 8.4% of the 1,200 people polled in this survey said they read columnists. The respondents were allowed to name more than one columnist in order of preference.

columnists. He said this is akin to comparing apples and oranges.

Dr. Fanek is still sitting pretty. As far as he is concerned "everyone wanted to be number one, next time the centre should come up with 15 columnists making it to first place ... to please everybody." Oddly enough, when a similar list from last year's poll was published, also by Dr. Fanek, there

was no outcry. Dr. Fanek cannot explain why.

CSS Director Mustafa Hamarneh's response? "The bottom line is that readership of both dailies and weeklies is down, and columnists just simply do not have the readership they may have thought they had."

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Jennifer Hamarneh

**LIBERATED IN LIBERIA:** Daneline, Monrovia, Liberia — Imagine signing a \$1 billion diamond, gold and iron ore mining deal in a country that has suffered years of civil strife, getting ready to fly home on a private jet, it's only minutes away from "wheels up" and suddenly you're told your passport has been confiscated and your plane is being obstructed from take-off by political opposition forces. Not so far-fetched an ordeal, as one of three Jordanians involved in just such an incident around two weeks ago recounts. It was Eshab Shafik Jumean's first trip to Liberia. He was travelling with his associates (a father and son team Basil and Iyad Shibli) to conclude the seven figure deal in his capacity as legal adviser to the Shibli's London-based firm, the Africa Mining Company. The trio were in the country as special guests of leading presidential contender Charles Taylor, head of the strongest faction on the ruling council preparing for Liberia's elections, and as such were always accompanied by security. But on the last day of their trip, as they sat in the VIP lounge at Monrovia's airport awaiting their departure, they were told that one of the senior officials of one of the factions opposing Charles Taylor's presidency had confiscated the Jordanian visitors' passports and would not allow their plane to take-off. Mr. Taylor's security forces moved in swiftly, evacuated the businessmen from the airport and took them to a nearby safe-house. It took an ultimatum from Mr. Taylor saying that if the passports were not returned and his guests allowed to leave, he would instigate a military strike. After much negotiation and eight arduous hours, the passports were returned and Mr. Jumean and the two Mr. Shibli's were then escorted to their private plane by armed security personnel. The Jordanians were mighty thankful for their departure, and say that with the contracts signed, they expect to start operations soon.

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**HOUNDING STRANGERS:** Reports of thefts and crimes were more the issue with Munes Razzaz, another Al Ra'i columnist, who, by the way came in fourth in popularity in the above mentioned CSS poll. His purchase of a guard dog protect his mother, however, went awry when the canine decided it was not enough to simply bark strangers away, it would be better to bite them as extra precaution. The trouble, as Mr. Razzaz explained in his column last week, was that Mrs. Razzaz' friends did not take too kindly to being bitten. Jabul Weibdeh police intervened, and Mr. Razzaz was obliged to visit the nearby police station to settle the matter. He wrote that he felt intimidated at first, until the officers recognised him and treated him to a cup of coffee. The self-confessed, extra-sensitive poet and novelist did not say, however, what fate befell the pouch.

## Doria Shafik: 20th century Cleopatra or 'a shipwrecked woman on the High Seas'?

**Doria Shafik: Egyptian Feminist — A Woman Apart**  
By Cynthia Nelson  
The American University in Cairo Press, 1996, 322 pages

C.W. MILLS believed that the main challenge for any social scientists is to develop sociological imagination, in order to "understand the larger historical scene in terms of the inner life and external career of a variety of individuals. It enables us to grasp history and biography and the relation between the two" (The Sociological Imagination, New York: Grove Press, 1961).

This is the approach adopted by Cynthia Nelson, professor at the American University in Cairo, in writing a biography of Doria Shafik, and one must say that she succeeded to a remarkable degree. The book is an intimate, insightful and gripping account of Shafik's life and quest for enlightenment and liberation, from her childhood in Tanta and Mansoura early in this century, until her tragic death in 1975. The book also serves as a useful briefing on the Egyptian women's movement from the 30s to the 60s, and the concurrent debate on the relation between Islam and modernity, and between nationalism and feminism. Lastly, it provides an overview of Egypt's tumultuous history from the rise of the anti-colonial movement, independence from Britain in 1952, developments under Nasser and up to the 1967 war.

One might argue that "sociological imagination" was indeed needed to write about a person so active in so many fields, so complex and often contradictory, as Doria Shafik. She was both "lady" and struggler; intellectual, poet and journalist; career woman, wife and mother; a devout Muslim who incurred the wrath of the Muslim Brotherhood

### BOOK REVIEW

because she insisted that religion did not contradict women's freedom; an ardent advocate of Egypt's independence who was attacked by nationalists for her openness to the West; and one of few to publicly challenge Nasser. Doria Shafik was all this and more.

Upon completing her doctorate at the Sorbonne in Paris with theses on the aesthetic concepts of ancient Egyptian art, and the compatibility of Islam with women's rights, Shafik entered the Miss Egypt pageant in Alexandria. Her feminist advocacy began by encouraging well-off, educated women like herself to help poor women, so they could be better mothers and wives. But like many Egyptians, she was radicalised by the 1948 war in Palestine. This event, coupled with the situation in Egypt, led her to conclude: "Turmoil was raging in my country. Lies had replaced truth... One had to find the stand from where to begin. It had to begin at the beginning: The Woman! A nation cannot be liberated whether internally or externally while its women are enchained" (p. 144).

Dressed in the latest Western styles, Shafik frequented fashionable Cairo clubs with her husband in the same years that she published several women's magazines and founded the Bint Al Nil Association. Under her leadership, Bint Al Nil opened over 80 women's centres and provided literacy classes for thousands throughout the country. Before the fall of the monarchy, Shafik led women's groups who stormed the parliament to demand women's suffrage, and besieged the British-owned Barclays Bank. After the revolution, Bint Al Nil's last militant action was an eight-day hunger strike to protest the absence of a single woman in

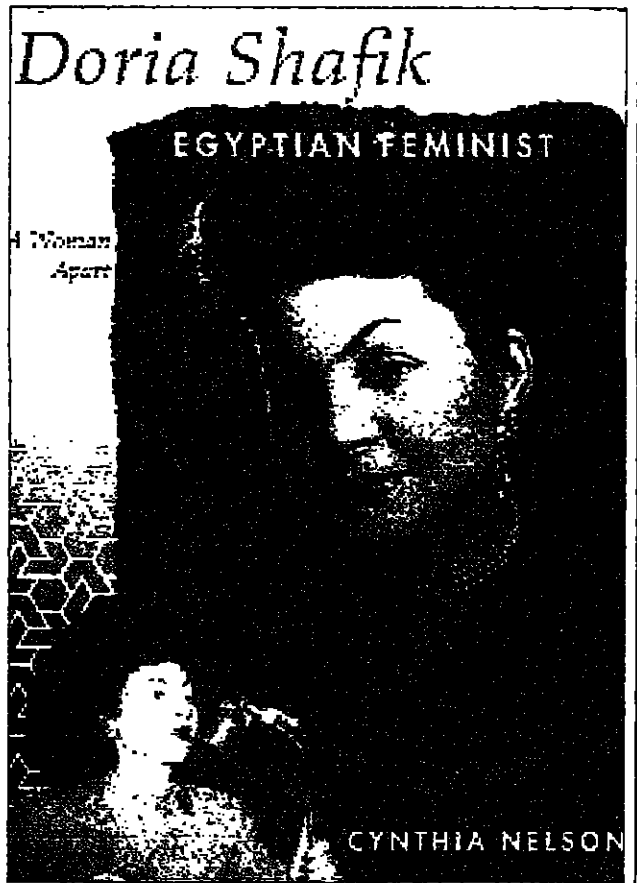
the Constitutional Committee appointed by Nasser. The constant that united all these activities was succinctly stated by Shafik in explaining the hunger strike: "Democracy is a whole that cannot be divided" (p. 207).

On the spiritual level, Shafik was guided by pursuit of the Absolute, which she defined in moral, human, philosophical and aesthetic terms. Truth and freedom were one to her, and through both her poetry and activism, she aspired to make her life a work of art "capable of capturing the Absolute" (p. 254). But as her daughter confided to her biographer, "Her value system was something unattainable in the real world" (p. 259).

Convinced that Egypt could recover its greatness of ancient days by instating equality and justice, Shafik ran afoul of the authorities, and was banished from the public arena. Thus, she seemed to fulfill the self-image recorded in one of her poems: "As a shipwrecked woman on the High Seas" (XIV). Yet, Cynthia Nelson concludes that despite tactical errors in confronting Nasser, Shafik contributed "more directly than had the reformers of an earlier generation to the construction of an Egyptian feminist discourse surrounding women's rights and Islam" (p. XII).

"Doria Shafik epitomises the dilemma of the double bind of the feminist cultural critic... the more she refuted the stereotypes created by European ignorance and romantic images of the east by expressing herself as 'the new woman,' the more she was criticised by her own society as not being oriental enough. The more she attempted to be a 'bridge,' a 'messenger,' between two cultures... the more she was distanced from her own society" (p. 283).

Sally Bland



## Tale of extramarital affair grips Japan

By Eugene Moosa  
Reuters

TOKYO — While Japanese filmmakers were winning prizes at the prestigious Cannes film festival last week, Japanese back home in Tokyo had eyes only for a sensual tale of an extramarital affair.

In what has become a book and film phenomena, "Shitsurakuen" (Paradise Lost) has become the country's hottest selling novel and movie in decades.

Kodansha, publisher of the novel by author Junichi Watanabe, has sold more than two million copies in just 10 weeks and the showing of the film of the book was extended for five weeks because of crowds lining up to see it. It was the latest example of an apparent re-birth of Japanese filmmaking.

At Cannes, Japanese director Shohei Imamura's film "Unagi" ("The Eel") shared the Golden Palm Award with the Iranian film "The Taste Of The Cherry", while the Best New Director prize was awarded to Naomi Kawase for her feature "Moe-No-Suzaku" (The God Suzaku).

Shitsurakuen tells how a 54-year-old publisher, passed over for promotion and relegated to minor chores at his office, falls in love with the 38-year-old demure, educated

wife of a doctor. Both are unhappy with their respective spouses.

After a year-long affair, they commit suicide by taking cyanide.

The book had an unlikely birth.

It first appeared in daily installments in the conservative economic journal Ni-hon Keizai Shimbun three years ago, drawing readers by its repeated, vivid sex scenes.

### The brilliance of life as individuals

"I think my novel won support because Japanese in the last 50 years seem to have forgotten the brilliance of life as individuals," Watanabe told Reuters.

"Love and sex are individual matters, but sex in general these days is very shallow," Watanabe said.

"Japanese have been pushed around by the ethics of the group, such as industriousness, efficiency and profit-seeking," said Watanabe, 64, a surgeon-turned novelist who has written many award-winning romantic novels.

"And I hate Japan copy-carving the over-morality of America like people forcing everybody else to quit smoking and start jogging," he added.

The company which made the film of the book agrees.

"I think the story caught modern Japan's craving for love and sex in the purest form, something that has been lost in this sexless age," spokesman Kuniaki Fukunaga of film distributors Toei Co. told Reuters.

In response to the daily packed audiences — now rare in theatres showing domestic films — Toei extended the original four-week road show that began in mid-May to nine weeks.

"More than 60 per cent of the audience are women, mostly in the 30s and 40s," Fukunaga said.

One 31-year old Tokyo financial firm employee and mother said the story caught the imagination of many married women.

"We all cheered Watanabe for expressing what remains an unspoken fantasy. Extra-marital affairs are still taboo, even in conversation," she said.

### Not exactly pornography

"The story borders on, but isn't exactly pornography. The two main characters are just like anybody else, meaning they are not especially promiscuous, and it was easy to

identify with them," she added.

Toei's pick of actress Hitomi Kuroki as the film's heroine coincided with the top choice of two rare public polls on who should play the part on screen — one by Nihon Keizai and the other by the equally conservative business magazine Zaikai.

And the actor that plays the over-the-hill publisher in Shitsurakuen is Koji Yakusho, who also stars in Imamura's prize-winning film at Cannes.

Toei's Fukunaga said the novel should not be confused with Japan's classic forbidden-love-to-suicide stories, made famous by 18th-century playwright Chikamatsu.

"Strict social structure in traditional Japan, such as class differences, forced lovers to commit suicides in those days. But the two in this novel have no such pressure, they just want to preserve their love through death," Fukunaga said.

"Admittedly, there is this very Japanese thing called beautification of death," he added.

The boom also has spilled over into package tours.

"Shitsurakuen tours" by Nihon Ryoko Co. offers couples — nobody asks if they are married — visits to hotels and places throughout Japan where the film lovers spent many a lurid night.



## Personalising the impersonal

By Jean-Claude Elias

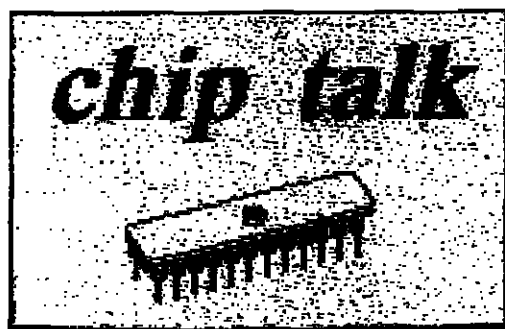
THE IMPERSONAL character of mass manufactured products is a compromise we have learnt to live with. Ever since the beginning of the industrial era in the nineteenth century, people have accepted the fact that advantages like low cost, availability and practical use are somewhat counterbalanced by an inevitable disadvantage: we all end up using the same, common, ordinary product. When we buy a car, a TV set or a pair of blue jeans, we give in to the flattening impact of standardisation.

Naturally designers long ago have noticed this negative aspect of manufacturing and have found a trick to compensate it, that is up to a certain point. For any given model they propose an array of sub-models supposed to give us the impression that we are getting a personalised article. Say you are buying Honda's "BlueSky" car. Choosing the "XGLS" version instead of the "XTYU" may indeed give you the impression that it has been designed for you personally, although the difference between both models may be as insignificant as the colour of the side mirrors or the shape of the headrests.

A smarter way to please the customer is to give him the possibility to modify something, anything, by himself, in the product he is buying and after having acquired it. The automotive industry offers an impressive choice of gadgets to personalise your car, why shouldn't the software industry do the same for your programmes?

Uniformity is more flagrant in the personal computer business than in any other field. You can find tens of car manufacturers each offering tens of models but how many good Word Processors or Electronic Spreadsheet programmes can you name? Two or three, at most. The entire world, that is hundreds of millions of PC users, is using either MS-Word or WordPerfect to do their computer typing. It was therefore only normal to see software designers give PC users the possibility to modify software to their needs and to their taste. How good and how safe is this?

Although changing the way a given piece of software works is mainly a matter of cosmetics, it can adversely affect the actual functioning of the programme if done without caution or without enough expertise. Consider the most obvious, Microsoft Word for instance. Once



installed, the user can change the place on the hard disk where the typed documents are saved, or the way the icons on the toolbars look. One can also decide to enable or disable the automatic "save" feature, change the default font, or completely remove an icon from the screen. Worse, one can take an icon, keep its shape and drawing but make it perform another task if clicked on. Imagine changing the function of the "save" icon for a "delete"! You may say it's nonsense and that nobody would want to do such a change. Don't be surprised if I told you how many users have actually tried that for fun, but forgot later on to restore the icon to its original function!

Apart from crazy changes that mean nothing more than free experimentation, perhaps the most meaningful type of modification one can bring to a computer programme is to tailor it to one's needs, after careful thinking. Keeping always available the icons that you often use and hiding those that you need every time Haley's Comet comes over Amman makes sense. In Windows 95 operating system, you can change the name of the famous "Explorer" icon to a more familiar name, like the good old "File Manager" for instance.

Customising software is not only a gadget, it can be very useful and can improve the efficiency with which you manipulate your PC. Doing it without a reason or without enough know-how may, on the contrary, prove to be disastrous. But whatever we may do will not make the product really a personalised one. Mass produced computers and software (and blue jeans, agreed) have become the most common thing on Earth.

## Indiana Rajab and the crusade of hope

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

RAJAB'S WORDS the other day about bottom-wiping reminded me of my own experiences in bottom-wiping, even though I happen to have no children of my own at this time.

But since this is not the line of thought that we are going to follow today, we had better get back to Rajab's most illuminating ideas.

Rajab was still sitting there rambling about his old high school's club reunion. He had a point to make about elections. And I had no doubt that he was going to tell me, and you, about it.

At the end of that same conversation I could not but sympathise with Rajab's feelings of disappointment that everytime elections were held, for his or for any other club, the same old faces seemed to always come out on top.

Before you start wondering at this moment why this is so, and why young people aren't being given a chance, let me tell you that Rajab's own guess is that they are busy doing much more interesting stuff, like chewing on a cheeseburger.

In his opinion, this was not a very forward-looking thing to do.

I too shared his feelings of disappointment that our society has never been able to look forward towards the future. And I understood his bitterness about our inability to come up with credible issues to debate in today's society.

Moreover, I agreed with him that it was quite sad that the same old issues which had guided, or maybe misguided, our lives years ago were still the same issues that the same activists of yesteryears, with much more grey hair though, were insisting on holding on to.

I happened to agree with Rajab that these very people and issues were most certainly the last thing on the minds of our young people, whether sitting down to have a cof-



fee in the coffee shops of western Amman or down in the Hashimiyya Plaza in the centre of Amman.

I agreed with Rajab that these young people, a majority of Jordanians, should be the ones targeted by would-be politicians. I agreed that their hopes should be made the focus of election manifestos. I also agreed with him that something should be done about the apparent lack of interest in politics by the young.

It was here that he suggested I help him out. My face lit up... but I winked at him, intending to say that this was just one more crusade too many. But I wished him luck anyway. He was certainly going to need it far more than any help I could have given.

But I may have been testing his resolve. You know how we are being told that we all need to test from time to time the love and loyalty that others have for us and others.

But the truth is that I was not sure of anything myself. Four years ago, even three years ago, I could have easily shared in Rajab's dreams and enthusiasm. I may even have surpassed them at one time. Not any more though.

Just as it has taken a lot of disappointments for this to happen, it will now take much more kindness to bring back the good old days. It will take hard work. It will take a clear sense of direction. But most of all, it will take appreciation.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- \*\* He is cut up by sorrow.  
Tarakmat alahyi al-ahzan.
- \*\* He is always in his cups.  
Howa da'iman sakran.
- \*\* He takes bad courses.  
Eeshatohu mukhtallah.
- \*\* He was confined to bed for three months.  
Lazama al-frash thalathet ash-hor.
- \*\* He has a complaint in the breast.  
Yashkoo min alam fee sadhrehi.
- \*\* Every bullet has its billet.  
La yuseebakom eila ma kataba Allahu lakom.

### PUZZLES

#### (A) THE ROPE LADDER

First Sailor: The tide is rising at the rate of sixteen inches per hour.

Second Sailor: Five rungs of that rope ladder are below the surface of the water. Each of those rungs is one inch thick, and there are seven inches between rungs. How many rungs of the rope ladder will be submerged two hours later?

#### (B) THE SMALLEST ANIMAL

Underline which of these animals whose names are hidden in the jumbled letters below is the smallest.

NOBIS  
NETIKT  
WROTHAG  
USEOM  
IRGAFFEE

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Does a hen sit or set on an egg?
2. Why is a bus-boy so-called?
3. Which is the largest artery in the body?
4. What is bagasse?
5. For what was ancient Delphi famous?
6. A cenotaph is what type of memorial?
7. How much lead is there in a lead pencil?
8. How many sheets of paper are there in a quire?

### HAPPY DREAMS

COMB — Combing your own hair in a dream suggests that you will have to take action to solve some bothersome problems. Combing someone else's hair is a sign of misplaced trust. Be careful where you place your confidence. Losing your comb in a dream indicates a coming disenchantment in love. Borrowing a comb or lending one forecasts financial difficulties for which you will require help, but don't worry, you will get it. If your dream involved observing a comb or seeing someone else using one, it signifies that you need to be firm in shaking off an association which no longer interests you.



### TEST YOUR POWER OF OBSERVATION

STUDY this picture carefully for only 3 minutes, and then decide whether the following statements are true or false. If you score more than 12 points, your observation is definitely powerful.

- The man, sitting on the chair, is bald.
- No. 5 is printed on one of the young men's shirts.
- The man is reading a newspaper.
- Two doves are seen in the picture.
- The man's shirt has long sleeves.

- The man is sitting cross-legged.
- The built-in antenna is inside the machine.
- One of the young men is carrying the radio-cassette in his right hand.
- In the picture there are less than three people.
- A little is building sand castles on the shore.
- There are some clouds in the sky.
- The man is bare-footed.
- The man is carrying on in reading.
- Both young men are fond of music.
- A bucket is seen beside the chair.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

### Thursday, June 12, 1997

3:30	The Holy Koran	7:00	Le Journal
3:35	French Programmes	7:15	French Programme
4:00	Out Of This World	7:30	News Headlines
4:30	They Came From Outer Space	7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
6:00	French Programmes	8:00	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
7:00	Le Journal	8:30	The Churchills
7:15	French Programme	9:10	Renegade
7:30	News Headlines	10:00	Soccer Match — Bolivia vs. Peru
7:35	Step By Step	12:00	One West Waikiki
8:00	World Echo		
8:30	New Talk Show — The Oprah Winfrey Show		

### Monday, June 16, 1997

9:10	Kung Fu — The Legend Continues	3:30	The Holy Koran
10:00	News In English	3:40	Spirou
10:30	Feature Film	4:05	Neighbours
01:05	Soccer Match — Peru vs. Uruguay	4:30	In The Wild (Doc.)
		5:00	Tilt
		5:30	Blue Heelers
		6:10	French Programmes
		7:00	Le Journal
		7:15	French Programme
		7:30	News Headlines
		7:35	Murphy Brown
		8:00	Discover Magazine
		8:30	Murder She Wrote
		9:10	Highlander
		10:00	News In English
		10:30	The Wright Verdict
		11:35	Soccer Match — Colombia vs. Costa Rica

### Tuesday, June 17, 1997

3:00	Holy Koran	3:30	Holy Koran
3:05	Leo The Lion — Cartoon	3:35	Soccer Match — Chile vs. Ecuador
3:30	Wish Bone	4:00	Super Sport Follies
4:05	Neighbours	5:00	Square One
4:30	Winners Down Under	5:10	Album Show
5:15	Varieties	6:10	French Programmes
5:30	French Film	7:30	News Headlines
7:00	Le Journal	7:35	Coach
7:15	French Programme	8:00	Tilt 23.5
7:30	News Headlines	8:30	Encounter
7:35	Family Matters	9:10	Nature Of Things (Documentary)
8:00	The Health Show	10:00	News In English
8:30	Hawkeye	10:30	West Beach
9:10	500 Nations	11:15	Drug Wars
10:00	News In English		
10:30	Mini Series		
12:00	NBA		
01:35	Soccer Match — Mexico vs. Colombia		

### Saturday, June 14, 1997

3:30	Holy Koran	3:30	Holy Koran
3:35	French Programmes	3:30	Soccer Match
4:00	Gillette World Sport Special	5:30	Border Town
4:30	Innovation	6:00	French Programmes
4:50	Tilt	7:30	News Headlines
5:15	Blue Heelers	7:35	Grace Under Fire (Doc.)
6:00	French Programmes	8:00	Soldier's Diary
7:00	Le Journal	8:30	Challenges
7:15	French Programme	9:10	Spenser For Hire
7:30	News Headlines	10:00	News In English
7:35	Hanging' with Mr. Cooper	10:25	Land's End
8:00	Magazine Zero One	11:15	American Gothic
8:30	Prism	01:05	Soccer Match — Peru vs. Venezuela
9:10	Time Trax		
10:00	News In English		
10:30	MacGyver		
11:05	Soccer Match — Paraguay vs. Ecuador		

### Sunday, June 15, 1997

3:30	Holy Koran	3:30	Holy Koran
3:35	French Programmes	3:30	Soccer Match
4:05	Global Family	5:30	Border Town
4:30	Energy Express	6:00	French Programmes
4:50	Our World (Doc.)	7:30	News Headlines
5:15	American Chart Show	7:35	Grace Under Fire (Doc.)
6:10	French Programmes	8:00	Soldier's Diary
		8:30	Challenges
		9:10	Spenser For Hire
		10:00	News In English
		10:25	Land's End
		11:15	American Gothic
		01:05	Soccer Match — Peru vs. Venezuela



# James Bond — will 007 be around the next century?

By Denis D. Gray  
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Mounted on a motorcycle, handcuffed to a beautiful Chinese spy, Bond — James Bond — careers through a steamy Bangkok back alley. Coolies and noodle vendors scatter, gunshots ring out, the relentless pursuers close in.

After 17 films over 35 years, will the world's most indestructible "secret agent" finally meet his maker in this, the 18th?

Or, as some say, will the longest series in cinematic history simply run out of steam?

"Hardly," says Pierce Brosnan, the fifth actor to play Bond, predicting that 007 will be using his license to wipe out no-goodniks and bed gorgeous women well into the 21st century.

"I'm sure there is already someone waiting in the wings to fill my shoes when I hang up my gun," adds the handsome Irishman, who has one Bond film, Goldeneye, under his belt, is contracted to play a third and may exercise options for a fourth.

Roger Spottiswoode, who directs Mr. Brosnan in

Tomorrow Never Dies, agrees. He believes the basic character is strong enough to survive, as long as he's remolded from time to time, keeps pace with current issues and is supplied with topical villains to liquidate.

In wake of communism's demise, Bond had to make do with the Russian mafia in Goldeneye, while his latest archenemy is an evil British media baron who noted how TV and newspaper profits soared during the Gulf War.

So he plots to increase already incredible ratings and daily circulation—100 million for his global newspaper Tomorrow — by sparking a prime time war between China and England.

Hoping Bondian gadgets will prove mightier than the pen, London headquarters dispatch their man to South East Asia, while Beijing unleashes its own top spy. Trying to neutralise Bond is popular Asian actress Michelle Yeoh, who Spottiswoode says comes across as a "Chinese-style 007, not a Bond babe."

Bond survives a cruise missile, the mother of all parachute jumps and the blades of a helicopter that try to carve him up, but

instead, demolish a bustling market. Bond and his now Chinese love mate escape by driving a motorcycle over Bangkok's rooftops (given the city's notorious traffic going by road would have resulted in Hollywood's shortest chase scene).

In truth, the climactic pursuit and other episodes are set in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly called Saigon, but the film-makers had to substitute Bangkok because authorities revoked an earlier permission to film in Vietnam for still unclear reasons.

"They chickened out," says Spottiswoode, who suspects Communist "Old Warriors" couldn't accept a big Western film company moving in. Other possibilities: Bond's earlier persona as an anti-Communist crusader and Vietnam's weak film-making infrastructure.

Thailand on the other hand has served as location for such big productions as The Killing Fields, The Deer Hunter, Air America, Dumbo Drop, and the 1974 Bond movie The Man With The Golden Gun, when Roger Moore starred.

Despite withering temper-

atures and some reports of friction between Brosnan and Spottiswoode, shooting in Bangkok appeared to go smoothly and on schedule.

"There was lots of pressure on the first film. I was the new kid on the block," said Brosnan, taking a break on the set. "Now, the part is mine. I'm just having a bloody great time."

The only apparent tension during one day's shooting came from the publicity team trying to stop a photographer from snapping Brosnan and Yeoh as they sat on a motorcycle mounted on a flatbed that was being pulled along.

Such fakery, they said, wouldn't be good for the macho Bond image.

Brosnan's co-star was equally relaxed, posing for photographs with kids of a neighbourhood that literally reeked of exotic Asia. Vendors hawked food in narrow alleys that led to riverside tanning sheds and godowns exuding the smells of rice, spice and things less nice.

"She's a woman of the '90s—intelligent, aggressive and doesn't take any nonsense from anybody," said Yeoh of her character. "It's about time that you have a woman who matches



Pierce Brosnan, the fifth actor to play James Bond, speaks to the press

up to Bond."

And not just in brains. The former Miss Malaysia is a

martial arts expert who performs most of her own stunts and has starred oppo-

site Kung Fu king Jackie Chan in several films. "Making this movie is

great fun," she said. "When do you get a chance to beat up six guys in one day?"



Meg Ryan in the movie Sleepless in Seattle

## Meg Ryan: Here's your story angle, right here

By Douglas J. Rowe  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A journalism major in college, Meg Ryan quickly shows how she might have developed a jeweller's eye for story angles if she had become a reporter.

The angle on her since her last film — the underappreciated Courage Under Fire, in which she plays a medevac pilot nominated as the first female medal of honour winner — is that she's trying to depart from her cutesy, girl-next-door image, that she wants to relinquish the scepter of the reigning queen of romantic comedies.

That could be the angle on her latest film, too, for in Addicted To Love she plays a spurned lover whose single-minded interest in Payback and Darth Vader-cum-Carwoman appearance make her seem more like the queen of mean.

But stop the presses, that angle is wrong, she says. "I don't have a career that I plan out and plot because ... I don't really think you can do that. It's more up to fate than anything," she says.

Plus, she points out, she's made a score of movies, many of which were dramas, including Flesh And Bone, Promised Land and The Doors, in which she played Jim Morrison's wife.

"I've played speed freaks and heroin addicts — movies that people didn't see but I've been doing," she says. "So I don't have this conscientious thing like I'm going to change my image, because I'm not cultivating one. It's for you guys to do. ... That's an angle people take — they've taken it on this movie, too, the 'conscientious departure' idea, which I don't have at all."

The 35-year-old actress, whose biggest successes were When Harry Met Sally... and Sleepless in Seattle, says she loves romantic comedies and always hopes to be able to make such films.

Protests aside, Ryan is ... cute — and has been for a long time. (She was voted "cutest" at her Connecticut high school in 1979.) She can be giggly in person, almost girlish, just like her screen persona.

But as writer Nora Ephron once said about her: "She's very strong and very centered. She knows who she is and what she wants."

In fact, she can be matter-of-fact. And Ryan will have you know that she's not a romantic in any treacly way — although she and Dennis Quaid did get married on Valentine's Day in 1991.

"I'm not goody, and kind of mushy. I feel like I'm kind of unsentimental," she says.

And unlike the character she plays in Addicted To Love, she's never really done anything crazy for love herself — even though she notes that it would serve her in doing publicity for this film to tell a story like that.

"It would make me too nervous to do something like that. I often feel, if I've been rejected, I've been rejected. I can take it — I'll just go quietly and lick my wounds."

Such thinking apparently applies to the ever-so-sore point of her estrangement from her mother, too.

When Ryan was about 15, her mother left her and her three siblings to pursue a career. By most reports, Ryan felt forsaken, and things went downhill from there — especially since her mom and mom's current husband, writer Pat Jordan, had some unkind things to say about Quaid.

Ryan has had little to say in response over the years, a move that can be seen as taking the highroad. And in talking with the Associated Press, she concedes that while she sees little downside to stardom, she chafes at her bitter non-relationship with her mother becoming fair game for the entertainment-news media.

Pushed a little more to elaborate on the scale of her anger, distaste or whatever she's feeling in her head and heart, she begins, "it's ..." then she stops and says simply, "no comment."

She quickly brightens, though, when told that some 25 web sites on the Internet are devoted to her and her movies. "Really! I had no — really! ... Oh my God!"

Then she launches into how being a celebrity is an abstract experience for her. "Because the reality of it is, you're not like famous every minute. Like when I'm not acting, I don't really think of myself as an actress. When the movie's about to come out, I realise that week I'll be a little more famous than the week before, because of all the commercials."

"But other than that, it's not how I define myself. It's not what I say I am to myself."

And it can have a Max Headroom-meets-Marshall McLuhan surrealism to it.

"It's weird to do the David Letterman Show. ... you're kind of looking at David Letterman's face, and you're thinking, 'I usually see his face on TV. There's his face right there, so I guess I must be on TV.' So then your mind goes outside yourself. ... It's not normal, and I hope it never gets normal for me. I just don't want that to be normal. I have a fun time while I'm doing it. But in that way it's abstract."

Anyway, she says, what supersedes everything is that she's a mom.

"It's this thing you give yourself to, and it gives back to you," says Ryan, whose son Jack Henry named 5 in April. "So I love that part. You love your child and he loves you back."

There's little abstract about that, she says, and she enjoys being a mother so much that it even feels recreational to her.

"I have great friends. I have a really good marriage and a really good thing going. So being at home is fun for me."

## Egypt to make first Arab film on conflict with Israel

Film to present Arab view of the half-century conflict

By Safaa Kanj  
Agence France Presse

CAIRO — Egyptian filmmakers have unveiled plans to produce a historical drama this year which presents for the first time the Arab view of the half-century of conflict with Israel.

Director Ali Abdul Khalek said the film "is an attempt to present a favourable view of the Palestinian cause to international opinion, which has been deceived by Israeli campaigns via Western films."

Scriptwriter Galal Abdul Qawi chose the Israeli name Netanya, for the film of nearly three hours because it is the name of "a military camp where the Israelis detained Egypt-

tian and Syrian prisoners during the June 1967 war."

"It's the symbol of Israeli war crimes," he said.

Netanya is also the name of a Mediterranean Sea resort north of Tel Aviv.

"The film will reveal Israel's lies about its so-called respect for democracy and human rights and show that the crimes committed at Netanya are only one link in a long chain of massacres from Deir Yassin to Qana" in South Lebanon in 1996, Abdul Qawi said.

Jewish guerrillas from the Stern Gang, or Lehi, and the Irgun massacred 254 people in the village of Deir Yassin west of Jerusalem on April 9, 1948, about a month before Israel proclaimed its

independence.

In Qana, a hundred Lebanese were killed in an Israeli bombardment during the Jewish state's Grapes of Wrath Operation against the pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia.

Abdul Khalek has not disclosed who will act in the film, while Qawi said negotiations are underway with Egyptian state television for funding.

The scriptwriter said the film tells the love story of an Egyptian major and a young Israeli Arab woman from Nazareth who helps him escape from the camp where he is held prisoner.

The events occur between 1967 and the Lebanese massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps during the Is-

raeli invasion of Beirut in 1982.

Abdul Qawi said the film is based on historic events and is a "tender love story" which will be filmed in Egypt and a neighbouring country.

"If I thought there was one chance in a million that Egypt could cave in to Israeli pressure (and refuse to make the film) I would have looked for another country to live in," he said.

Abdul Qawi is a scriptwriter for Egyptian serials, whose best known work is Money And Offspring. Abdul Khalek said he has directed several films such as the 1971 movie A Song Along The Way on the Egyptian-Israeli war of attrition.

## Sparkling design wins diamond award

THESE GEM-ENCRUSTED earrings won British designer Roger Doyle a prize in the prestigious 1996 De Beers Diamonds-International Awards.

The awards are presented every two years to honour innovation in the design of fine diamond jewellery. For last year's competition, 2,285 designs were submitted from 43 different countries and there were 30 winners.

The black-through-to-white enamel earrings by Roger Doyle are set with 50 baguette-cut diamonds. It is the second time he has been a Diamonds-International Award winner.

The competition, which began in 1953, is considered to be invaluable to the progress of the jewellery industry, acting for it as haute couture does for the fashion world.

However avant-garde the designs may seem at the time, their influence is greatly felt by the mass market in following years.

Goldsmith-designer Roger Doyle trained at London's Central School of Art and Design and served an apprenticeship with Cartier.



In 1969 he worked for Louis Osman on the crown of the Prince of Wales for

his investiture. At his studio in London, Roger Doyle designs and makes jew-

ellery in gold, enamel and gemstones — London Press Service.

# A quiet day for the one-death-per-tonne crop

With tobacco farming providing thousands of agricultural jobs and reaping large sums of foreign exchange, Zimbabwe did not celebrate World No Tobacco Day. Gemini News Service looks at an industry playing a key role in national development, which stands accused of spreading disease

By Ronald Watts

HARARE — Zimbabwe is planning to kill 210,560 people this year — most of them foreigners — and to get paid handsomely for it.

The government is so pleased with its earnings that it is hoping to export an even bigger death toll in 1998.

This is how anti-smoking campaigners characterise Zimbabwe's tobacco industry, based on a World Bank contention that "for every tonne of tobacco produced one person eventually dies."

They hold smoking largely responsible for a global epidemic of lung and other cancers.

Dr. Timothy Stamps, the Welsh-born health minister, would like to protect Zimbabweans from the dangers. With this in mind, he once suggested that the country should export its entire tobacco crop and not just 99 per cent. Critics accused him of peddling a "Medellin

philosophy" — a reference to the infamous drug cartel in Colombia.

President Robert Mugabe's government, which benefits from the business by levying a 10 per cent tax on tobacco sales by farmers, is used to attacks from anti-smoking campaigners. But Zimbabwe, like other major producers, is caught in a bind.

On the one hand, the World Health Organisation and the increasingly influential international anti-smoking lobby describe tobacco as one of the world's most pressing health hazards.

On the other, the crop provides a livelihood for tens of thousands of farmers and their families and is a vital export earner.

Lal Taylor, public relations director of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association, says the crop earns almost six billion Zimbabwean dollars a year and is "the largest foreign exchange earner and the largest

employer of agricultural labour."

She says there is no change in the association's policy that it "will continue to produce tobacco as long as it is a legal product and there is a market niche to fill."

The association says it is planning an increased hecatomb for the 1998 season following good rains over the past year.

A few hundred white farmers have long controlled Zimbabwe's tobacco industry, but blacks are beginning to challenge this total domination.

In April, Roger Boka, a self-styled crusader for black economic empowerment who was described by a former agriculture minister, Denis Norman, as "a man of vision, a man of action," opened a new tobacco auction floor.

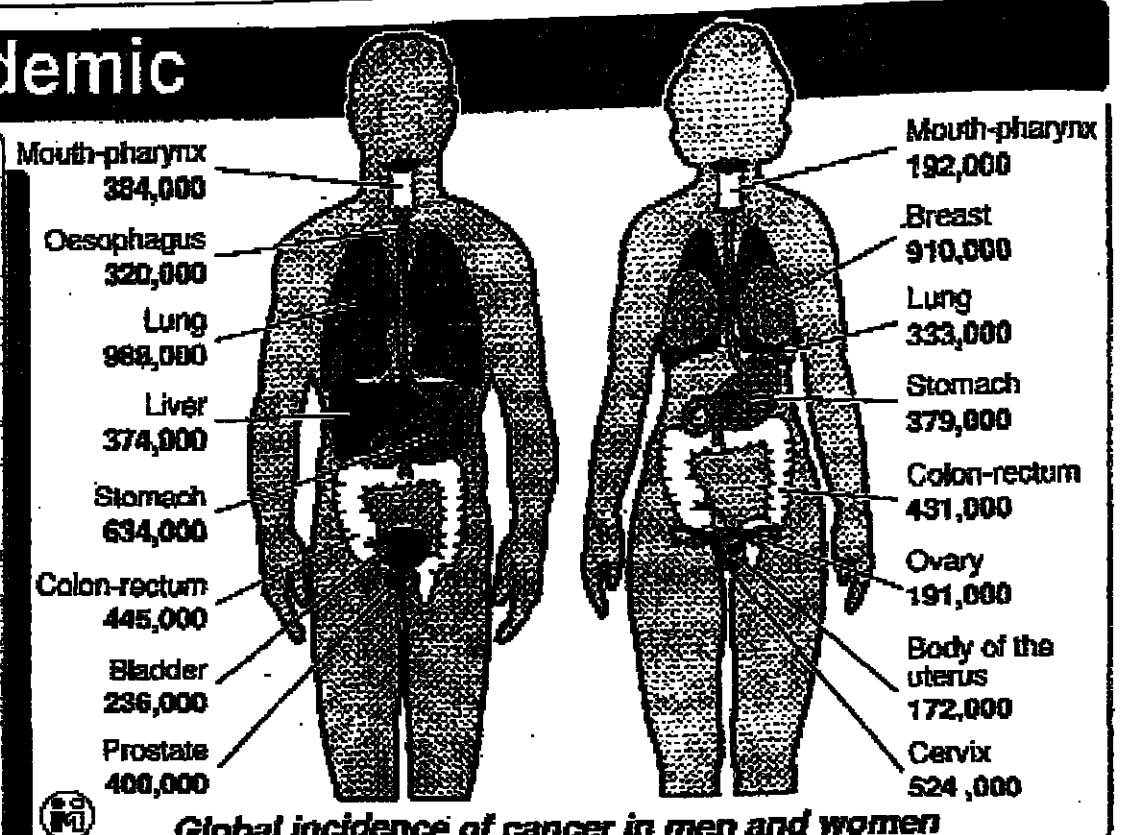
Promoted as "the world's largest tobacco sales centre," it attracted opposition from the still largely white-controlled farming press, grumbling about newcomers muscling in on the market.

Tobacco is so important to Zimbabwe that it is no surprise that International No Smoking Day — 31 May — scarcely gets a look in.

"The Zimbabwe Tobacco Association did not issue a specific statement on 31 May as the day tends to get

## A global epidemic

- With 1.3m new cases a year, lung cancer is most common cancer in the world
- Globally, 85% of cases in men and 46% in women are due to smoking
- Tobacco consumption is rising in most countries, so the epidemic will continue to evolve over the next 10-20 years
- A lifetime smoker is 20-30 times more at risk than a non-smoker
- Tobacco is also linked with cancer of the mouth, bladder, larynx and oesophagus and with coronary heart disease



Source: WHO, 1986 figures

very little recognition here," says Lal Taylor, adding: "Dare I say, thank goodness."

In previous years, the Zimbabwe Medical Association has issued a statement on the day and, in 1993, Harare was the venue for the All Africa Conference on Tobacco or Health.

Bur Dr. Charles Todd of Harare's School of Medicine says that pressure on the industry from health professionals has not increased.

"Alcohol, AIDS, wife-beating, road accidents and family break-ups are bigger issues in health terms," he says.

Dr. Yussuf Saloojee of the South African Council Against Smoking says that even Health Minister Stamps is now more pragmatic and realises "that Zimbabwe has a Catch-22 situation and can't stop growing tobacco tomorrow."

If tobacco is to be phased out, as the no-smoking cam-

paigners want, other profitable crops will have to be found. One Zimbabwean farmer, David Hamilton, says a good alternative is paprika. Like tobacco it will grow on sandy soils, with or without irrigation.

But the fact will not have escaped the notice of the Zimbabwe government that

even anti-smoking pressure mounts, the big United States cigarette manufacturers — under threat from legal action by domestic consumers — are likely to compensate for potential losses of revenue at home by marketing more aggressively in developing countries — Gemini Feature.

## ANSWERS

### PUZZLES

#### (A) THE ROPE LADDER

— FIVE RUNGS.

ANALYSIS: As the tide rises the yacht will, of course, rise with it. The ladder, being attached to the yacht, will rise with the boat.

#### (B) THE SMALLEST ANIMAL

— MOUSE.

(The other animals are bison, kitten, warthog and giraffe.)

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

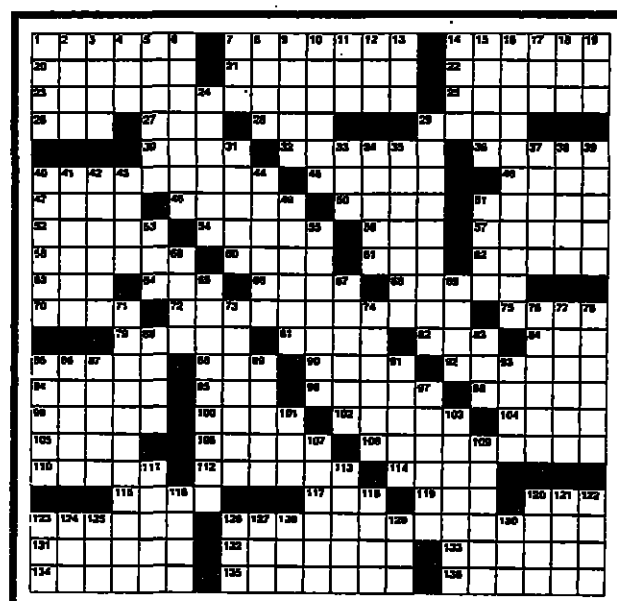
1. She sits.
2. Because he does miscellaneous jobs. Bus is an abbreviation of the Latin omnibus, meaning all.
3. The aorta.
4. Pulp of sugar cane after the juice has been extracted.
5. Its oracle.
6. A monument to the memory of one buried elsewhere.
7. None
8. Twenty-four.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

### CAPITAL IDEA

By John Wolting

- |                       |                         |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Down: 1. Dinosaur   | 17 Across: 1. Dinosaur  | 33 Down: 1. Dinosaur  |
| 2 Down: 2. Dinosaur   | 18 Across: 2. Dinosaur  | 34 Down: 2. Dinosaur  |
| 3 Down: 3. Dinosaur   | 19 Across: 3. Dinosaur  | 35 Down: 3. Dinosaur  |
| 4 Down: 4. Dinosaur   | 20 Across: 4. Dinosaur  | 36 Down: 4. Dinosaur  |
| 5 Down: 5. Dinosaur   | 21 Across: 5. Dinosaur  | 37 Down: 5. Dinosaur  |
| 6 Down: 6. Dinosaur   | 22 Across: 6. Dinosaur  | 38 Down: 6. Dinosaur  |
| 7 Down: 7. Dinosaur   | 23 Across: 7. Dinosaur  | 39 Down: 7. Dinosaur  |
| 8 Down: 8. Dinosaur   | 24 Across: 8. Dinosaur  | 40 Down: 8. Dinosaur  |
| 9 Down: 9. Dinosaur   | 25 Across: 9. Dinosaur  | 41 Down: 9. Dinosaur  |
| 10 Down: 10. Dinosaur | 26 Across: 10. Dinosaur | 42 Down: 10. Dinosaur |
| 11 Down: 11. Dinosaur | 27 Across: 11. Dinosaur | 43 Down: 11. Dinosaur |
| 12 Down: 12. Dinosaur | 28 Across: 12. Dinosaur | 44 Down: 12. Dinosaur |
| 13 Down: 13. Dinosaur | 29 Across: 13. Dinosaur | 45 Down: 13. Dinosaur |
| 14 Down: 14. Dinosaur | 30 Across: 14. Dinosaur | 46 Down: 14. Dinosaur |
| 15 Down: 15. Dinosaur | 31 Across: 15. Dinosaur | 47 Down: 15. Dinosaur |
| 16 Down: 16. Dinosaur | 32 Across: 16. Dinosaur | 48 Down: 16. Dinosaur |



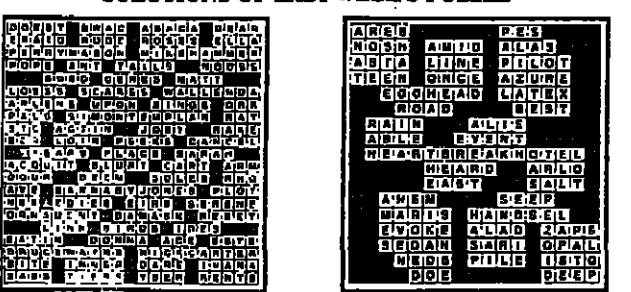
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| 111 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 112 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 113 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 114 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 115 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 116 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 117 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 118 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 119 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 120 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 121 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 122 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 123 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 124 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 125 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 126 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 127 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 128 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 129 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 130 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 131 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 132 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 133 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 134 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 135 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 136 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 137 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 138 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
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| 141 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 142 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 143 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 144 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 145 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 146 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 147 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 148 Down: 1. Dinosaur |
| 149 Across: 1. Dinosaur | 150 Down: 1. Dinosaur |

### Diagramless, 21x21

By Roger Coburn

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Across: 1. Dinosaur   | 11 Down: 1. Dinosaur  |
| 2 Across: 2. Dinosaur   | 12 Down: 2. Dinosaur  |
| 3 Across: 3. Dinosaur   | 13 Down: 3. Dinosaur  |
| 4 Across: 4. Dinosaur   | 14 Down: 4. Dinosaur  |
| 5 Across: 5. Dinosaur   | 15 Down: 5. Dinosaur  |
| 6 Across: 6. Dinosaur   | 16 Down: 6. Dinosaur  |
| 7 Across: 7. Dinosaur   | 17 Down: 7. Dinosaur  |
| 8 Across: 8. Dinosaur   | 18 Down: 8. Dinosaur  |
| 9 Across: 9. Dinosaur   | 19 Down: 9. Dinosaur  |
| 10 Across: 10. Dinosaur | 20 Down: 10. Dinosaur |
| 11 Across: 11. Dinosaur | 21 Down: 11. Dinosaur |
| 12 Across: 12. Dinosaur | 22 Down: 12. Dinosaur |
| 13 Across: 13. Dinosaur | 23 Down: 13. Dinosaur |
| 14 Across: 14. Dinosaur | 24 Down: 14. Dinosaur |
| 15 Across: 15. Dinosaur | 25 Down: 15. Dinosaur |
| 16 Across: 16. Dinosaur | 26 Down: 16. Dinosaur |
| 17 Across: 17. Dinosaur | 27 Down: 17. Dinosaur |
| 18 Across: 18. Dinosaur | 28 Down: 18. Dinosaur |
| 19 Across: 19. Dinosaur | 29 Down: 19. Dinosaur |
| 20 Across: 20. Dinosaur | 30 Down: 20. Dinosaur |
| 21 Across: 21. Dinosaur | 31 Down: 21. Dinosaur |

### SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



### Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Indeed, you may know "time flies like an arrow," but did you know fruit flies like bananas?
2. How many words can you find with all five vowels in proper alphabetic order? Here's one: abstemious.
3. Familiar word: "I'll never forget good old what's-his-name."
4. If abolition is the solution for pollution, poor old Earth needs a bath.

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1.D ENX QDC HBII YLII D QDA TNE YI  
ULY STEEL TL'Z UNBAU ANY TNE TN ONI  
BY KC DOYLE TL'Z ITENEUT. — By Barbara J. Ross

2.DIAGN FOXY ROOYR ZALEYBULN II  
VUOPNEX YFARFIOJ, IGJUCY REB NI FESL  
EL REY IVL JUDGUZEN JUSUFIZBULN.  
— By E.C. Doyle

3.NCHKE ROAE TROXY ONOCE PU EGGEY  
SCHAMFUL XGUEYAE SYLVE O HUPPI  
TROPHY? — By Ed Haddleton

4.TDOIRF EOGIP COIN AT SAPP, ATEIP  
NDARE SLE RIGID OR FALSE. — By Frank N. Stein

# Man vs mosquito as malaria advances in Africa

By Richard Meares  
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Africa's most potent agent of death sneaks up on its victims at night and drinks their blood. It is feared and detested, but experts seem powerless to halt its onslaught.

The mosquito and the malaria parasite it carries are outfoxing mankind, staying one step ahead of every plot to kill them and, now, even regaining territory from which they were once banished.

Malaria kills between one and three million people a year, or one every few seconds — and 90 per cent are in sub-Saharan Africa. Half a billion people are infected worldwide, and the situation is getting worse as drug resistance grows.

"The international community has a responsibility to recognise malaria, like the AIDS pandemic, as a major challenge and commit itself to do more to prevent the disaster that looms over Africa," top scientists wrote in Nature magazine in April.

It is the most dangerous illness on a continent already ravaged by AIDS and full of exotic maladies, such as the Ebola virus, that make it the most disease-ridden part of the globe.

Worried, the Organisation of African Unity has for the first time put malaria on the agenda for its annual summit this month. "Many people are dying across the continent and African leaders want to redouble their efforts to fight this disease," Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Stan Mudenge told Reuters in Harare.

Death rates rise in Zimbabwe, which hosted the summit. 250,000 cases of malaria have been recorded this year and nearly 500 people have died, a hefty two-and-a-half times increase over last year, due to heavy rains that provide ideal breeding conditions.

Neighbouring Malawi is one of many central African states plagued by malaria, but the World Health Organisation (WHO) says the disease is gaining ground in new regions of Africa too.

Only the northern and southern extremes of the continent — the Maghreb, the Sahara, much of South Africa, Namibia and Botswana — are malaria-free.

Scientists warn that global warming, air travel and mega-cities, all blows to the fight against many diseases old and new, could take malaria into hitherto unknown areas.

"People in the West feel falsely secure in their homes," said Dr. David Heymann of the WHO emergency disease unit. "Man has now become a vector (carrier) of disease from one continent to another, just like insects."

In Europe, malaria — an Italian word for bad air — rose tenfold in five years, to 200,000 registered cases in 1995.

How it kills  
Thirsty female mosquitoes home in on their warm-blooded prey during the hours of darkness, and can pass on malaria as they puncture veins close to the skin and start to feast.

search hints the cheesy smell of feet or socks attracts it.

In temperate climates, that unmistakable, piercing whine means itchy bites and disturbed sleep in rooms where the vendetta between man and mosquito can become intensely personal.

But in Africa and other warmer regions it spells danger. Malaria is caused by the plasmodium parasite, four species of which use humans as hosts. Some cause recurring illness.

Falciparum is the kind that rules in Africa, causing cerebral malaria which, if untreated, leads to coma and death.

It also makes red blood cells "sludge," or congeal, impeding the flow of blood through small veins and damaging the organs.

Symptoms, starting up to three months after the bite, resemble those of flu: fever, chills, headache, pains, sweating.

"You can't stand and you can't lie down, you don't know what to do with the pain. You get jerky vision," said one sufferer.

Who will win?  
In the confident 1950s and 60s, governments embarked on huge mosquito eradication programmes, dumping tonnes of the insecticide DDT into swamps and stagnant waters where the insects breed.

Malaria's realm shrank but it was impossible to wipe out the carrier. Attention turned to killing the parasite instead.

Quinine was identified early on as going some way to warding off malaria, giving British colonial settlers an excuse for an extra gin

and quinine-rich tonic, but with limited effect.

The parasite has overcome most drugs thrown at it since.

Falciparum is increasingly resistant to Chloroquine, once the most common anti-malarial, and is winning its fight with the only other cheap and commonly available drug, Fansidar.

Even Mefloquine (sold as Lariam), a strong recent drug that causes mental troubles in some users, is not fail-safe.

Vaccines have been disappointing but experts say one being developed by SmithKline Beecham SB, is offering some hope.

Geneticists are also on the case to see if they can mutate the mozzie, though critics say research funding on malaria is pitifully low because it is seen as a Third-World disease.

To most Africans, all this is academic. Prophylactic drugs are not meant for permanent use by people living in malaria areas, and even then few people could afford to buy them.

A much cheaper and simpler solution is at hand for Africa, one that would not eradicate malaria but which, trials show, could cut the number of deaths substantially.

MARA, a pan-African research group using the internet to cut costs and pool information, said trials showed bed nets impregnated with insecticide can cut child malaria deaths by up to two thirds.

"These results have provided a realistic, low-technology and sustainable option to improve child survival in much of sub-Saharan Africa," they said.

# Researchers find gene that causes severe deafness

LONDON (R) — British researchers have said they had found a gene mutation that seems to cause severe deafness, which affects about one in 1,000 children.

Reporting in the science journal Nature, they said their findings also indicated the gene was of primary importance in hearing.

Deafness is known to have several genetic components but genetically-linked deafness usually has other problems associated with it.

David Kelsell and Irene Leigh of St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London said they had found a gene for severe deafness that did not seem to cause any other disorder.

The gene, CX26, causes the production of a protein known as connexin 26 which is found in large amounts in the inner ear. People whose CX26 gene is mutated can develop severe deafness.

Dr. Kelsell, Dr. Leigh and colleagues said CX26 seemed to be important to the cochlea — the snail-shaped

organ in the inner ear, filled with fluid, where the organ of corti is found. This is the primary sense receptor for sound.

Although CX26 is found in the liver, pancreas and elsewhere in the body, the mutation does not seem to have any other effect than deafness, they said.

Dr. Kelsell, Dr. Leigh and colleagues said CX26 seemed to be important to the cochlea — the snail-shaped



# Challenges facing UNESCO in a world of transition

The following address by Adnan Badran, deputy director-general, UNESCO, Paris, was made at the opening session of the international leadership conference organised by the United Nations University in Amman and delivered on June 1:

OUR WORLD is in a state of rapid transition. We are living in an age of renewal and transformation. When people renew, they usually take stock of their past failures and past success stories and compare themselves with others. They heighten ethical values and look for a renewed hope, new rigour and vigour to do the impossible and to not take "no" for an answer. Usually when people renew, they go back to the "charisma of the founder" to reinstate it.

There are 960 days left before we turn the last page on our current millennium, and it is important to take time out for reflection, deep reflection, to prepare ourselves for a new page, "our contract with future generations — the generation of the 21st century." "At a time of crisis, only imagination is more important than knowledge" were the words of Albert Einstein, which apply to the "status quo" of today.

To be effective, we must identify the roots of global problems and strive, with imagination and determination, to check conflicts in their early stages. Building the defences of peace requires the education and

enlightenment of others. The ignorance of the other's ways of life, traditions, values and culture leads to suspicion, mistrust and conflicts, so, according to UNESCO's constitution, "peace based upon the political and economical arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world; peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and world solidarity of mankind." So we must foresee in order to prevent and act in a timely, decisive and courageous manner.

A system collapsed in 1989 because concentrating on equality, it forgot liberty. The present system of the New World Order, focused on liberty, will suffer the same fate if it forgets equality and solidarity.

In looking to the future, we must take into consideration the three dimensions of globality, complexity and irreversibility.

Globality is essential since the world is "one or none." Our view of the world must consider its complexity; therefore, providing knowledge and up-to-date access to the right information is a must for the decision maker. We live under one roof of a global village. If part of it starts to crack, it will fall and destroy all of us. Interdependence will shape our future life and we must make decisions at the right time. We have to introduce a new concept, the "ethics

of time," otherwise unpopular events become irreversible. In confronting the many challenges, education will play a central role. The challenges of the future which face the U.N. system are:

1. Global vs. local: while globalisation tends to mould a world citizen, grassroots and community links should be preserved. Our concern is the loss of the rich diversity of cultures, of the 6,000 languages, the traditions and value systems which were built inherently over thousands of years of humanity's cultural evolution.

The world would be monotonous with one prevailing culture. But also, we should devise a system of education to understand and appreciate other cultures so as to avoid ethnic intolerance, religious or ideological fanaticism. To educate is, precisely, to establish the standards and criteria to assert our differences and disagreements without recourse to violence. In educating the future citizens and leaders of tomorrow, we must give the means of rejecting alien strategies of "borrowed" ideas, new breed of false prophets, cultural and far-right nationalist extremism to avoid the remote control fatalism and intolerance.

2. The challenge of striking a balance between tradition and modernity. The communication revolution is changing our lives. The new information highways will reach the unreached and include the excluded.

But in addition, it will invade our privacy and uncharted territory. This is a powerful tool to bridge the gap between info-rich and info-poor societies. Knowledge and access to information are going to be the main criteria to govern progress and become dominant in the global market economy.

and short-term objectives are crucial for not over-taxing the environment; depletion of natural resources, global warming; greenhouse gases; desertification; poverty and overpopulation are threatening the life support system of our planet. The world population which now stands at 5.9

4. The challenge between competition and equal opportunity; although competition is important for development and achieving efficiency, quality and diversified materials, how could we justify the disparity of the current situation, with 80 per cent of the planet's resources in the hands of 20 per cent of

men occupy 95 per cent of government posts and 90 per cent of parliamentary seats? How can we go on while the voice of virtually half the planet goes unheard? Civic rights and building justice and democratic institutions towards peace and development cannot be achieved with half the human beings being marginalised. How can we develop equality while 70 per cent (representing over 2 billion people) in the developing world have no access to electricity, and how could we supply basic energy needs at a time when our present way is far from being sustainable?

It is really a shame for today's humanity that they have landed a man on the moon, conquered the space and harnessed technology while still 24 people die of hunger every minute, 35,000 every day, and 13 million die from hunger every year. It is not acceptable that farmers on one continent should be paid to destroy crops to avoid surplus production while in a neighbouring country villagers go hungry and thirsty from polluted water, and widespread diseases wipe out children. Malaria has taken a toll of 2 million deaths per annum and this number will increase to reach 3 million by the end of this century, mostly in Africa. How could we justify that the combined wealth of 477 billionaires is greater than the total income of the poorest half of the world's population? At UNESCO, the

Jacques Delors Commission has completed its report wherein they highlight the four pillars of education. In addition to what has been identified by Edgar Faure, the commission has identified four pillars of the concept of learning as the keys for the 21st century. It meets the challenges posed by a rapidly changing world.

We do need to go back to basics: education, but quality education, in order to empower the people and in order to deal with new situations. The only way is to convince ourselves and others that education is for each individual to learn how to learn.

The commission has recognised the four pillars of education as: learning to be, learning to know, learning to do and learning to live together. Learning to live together by developing an understanding of others, of the history, traditions and spiritual values, we are moving more and more towards interdependence.

Science and mathematics are receiving much attention to do and upgrading, particularly in industrialised countries. The U.S., U.K. and Japan are intensifying their efforts for strengthening science and mathematics education in preparation for the new era of globalisation.

The competition for the world marketplace has started and science holds the key to the secret of knowledge; the next millennium is expected to be the century of science and technology.

**"With a level of illiteracy of 850 million throughout the world, mostly in rural areas — 70 per cent of them women — how can we develop a true democratic institution? How can we empower women, who form 50 per cent of the planet's population, when men occupy 95 per cent of government posts and 90 per cent of parliamentary seats? How can we go on while the voice of virtually half the planet goes unheard? Civic rights and building justice and democratic institutions towards peace and development cannot be achieved with half the human beings being marginalised."**

The concept of "interactive multimedia" and "virtual university" will change the whole concept of the university of today. New learning processes, life-long education and various international levels of degrees and diplomas will be carried out at home, from the words, images and sounds of the computer screen, using state of the art interactive learning packages written and designed by Nobel laureates of various disciplines.

3. The challenges of a balance between long-term

billions is currently growing at 170 persons per minute, the equivalent of Canada every 3 months, the population of France every 6 months; and the population of China every 10 years.

The irony here is that 80 per cent of the increase in population is taking place in the developing countries which are already suffering and having a gross national product (GNP) of less than \$1,200 a year. Also, the biological diversity is being eroded at alarming rate — 25,000 times its natural rate.

its inhabitants? And how can we justify the fact that one in ten children still dies monthly from malnutrition, before reaching the age of 5?

There are too many unacceptable realities remaining in our developing world. With a level of illiteracy of 850 million throughout the world, mostly in rural areas — 70 per cent of them women — how can we develop a true democratic institution? How can we empower women, who form 50 per cent of the planet's population, when

## King, Queen arrive in Paris...

(Continued from page 1)

your feel for the problems which others face in other parts of the world and your genuine attempts to solve them. We believe that Europe can do much in helping us. We are at a critical moment in terms of the peace process, to which we have dedicated our lives and are totally committed. We know that the United States will play the role that is worthy of the U.S. to play, the impact that it has to help those concerned in the area and we hope that Europe will be supportive and complementary," King Hussein told Mr. Kok.

The Dutch prime minister responded: "We need peace and King Hussein has played and is playing a key role in a courageous way in promoting peace and in taking initiative to bring various parties together. That is the political side of the matter."

"On top of that we also want to be active in the social and economic fields because at the end of the day, people do not want only to see the progress in the peace process but they want to see perspectives, jobs, training and a new future and one has to be done in combination with the other."

"We are now in the chair of the European Union and it is a good opportunity to share views with others. We have the opinion that we should be active in the two fields at the same time. So we take our social and economic responsibility also in promoting investment, promoting economic activities in the region," Mr. Kok said.

Asked about the prospect of European leaders discussing the Middle East, King Hussein said: "I hope the coming meeting of the European leaders will discuss all the Middle East problems. I have discussed with our Dutch friends here various aspects of the Middle East problem in detail and I believe that they appreciate our stand and they agree that everything should be done to protect the peace process."

The King conferred on Mr. Kok the Jordanian Al Nahda Medal. He later attended with Her Majesty Queen Noor a lunch banquet hosted by the Dutch prime minister and his wife and attended by the Jordanian delegation.

Earlier in the day, King Hussein paid a visit to the Dutch parliament, met with parliament speakers and addressed Dutch parliamentarians.

"Europe, in what it has achieved is an example and an inspiration, I have said it before and I say it again. It is my hope that if I lived long enough that I will see an Arab parliament representing peoples' of the Arab World."

"That I will see the kind of relations that the Europeans were able to achieve despite difficulties and in the interest of all. Relations based on mutual respect and openness because our future in our part of the world can only come as a result of genuine attempts and sincere efforts to achieve complementarity between us all and to work for a better future, to recognise the worth of the individual, to recognise his rights as a human being, to give him the opportunity

to contribute towards a better future that we seek through democracy.

"Ours is a holy land, the land where the three monotheistic religions were born and had their affect on the world and humanity. It is our hope that the time will come when cooperation, mutual respect, harmony and justice will pave the way... to fulfill God's will," the King said.

On the question of Jerusalem, the King said: "Jerusalem, the Holy City, the Old City... I have always felt that it was a challenge placed before us all, not to fight for it, but to worship the one God and where sovereignty should not be that of a state or a people, but the followers of all the three great religions to share equally in coming together and in making Jerusalem the essence of peace between them for all times to come."

"The Palestinian-Israeli dimension is another one, eastern Jerusalem is an occupied territory as of June 1967, and it is not beyond the wise people and dedicated people who can do everything they can. West Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and has been recognised. To make Jerusalem also a symbol of peace, the essence of peace between the people of Israel and the Palestinians. We are not talking about wars and barriers and separations but about harmony, cohesion, coexistence and the rights of all equally to be there. Why can't it be the capital of both? Why can't they be (two) capitals each along side the other?"

Dr. Mutawi emphasised that Jordan believes in positive engagement and dialogue with friendly and neighbouring countries as means of addressing issues of common concern.

Before leaving Turkey for Britain en route to the United States, Prince Hassan will deliver a lecture on the latest developments in the region.

## Kingdom to receive F-16s

(Continued from page 1)

as part of a total \$300 million assistance pledged by the Clinton administration, which includes 18 UH-1H helicopters, 50 M60A3 tanks, 250 M1008 and M1009 trucks, two MK-4 personnel boats, air-sea rescue boats, an air-sea rescue vessel as well as machine-guns and 1,000 night vision goggles. The F-16 jets are part of the deal.

"I think the president's identification of Jordan as a major non-NATO ally is the result of the close cooperation between the two governments," Mr. Egan said after awarding Field Marshal Kaabneh the Legion of Merit, one of the U.S.' highest awards given in peace time.

"It is great pleasure to me to present to you the Legion of Merit. You have been the central and most important element in our military-to-military relationship over many years... and on behalf of Secretary (William) Perry who met you several times during his travel here and on behalf of Secretary (William) Cohen it is great pleasure to be part of the presentation to you today," Mr. Egan said.

During the joint exercise, the third with U.S. marines in the past few years, more than 500 Jordanian soldiers and 2,000 U.S. marines battled a "mock enemy" in the desert, 80 kilometres south of Amman.

On Wednesday, Jordanian assault AH-1W Cobra helicopters and U.S. Harriers and UH-1N Huey planes extended support to Jordanian infantry and a U.S. marines unit in their attack to liberate "occupied territories by mock enemies."

At least 500 American marines were based in King Faisal Air Base and held air exercise with Jordanian Air Force personnel.

Two meetings were conducted by Jordanian and American military officials to prepare the ground for this manoeuvre, where the two sides agreed about all the aspects that relate to the logistic and training sides.

The U.S. troop redeployment is expected to start on June 12 and be completed by June 19. Three U.S. military ships, which are docked in Aqaba, will take the troops back to San Diego, California.

der of realtors by Palestinian security officials is an egregious violation of human rights and of international norms," Mr. Gingrich said in an emotional floor speech.

Mr. Gingrich was speaking on a "sense of Congress" amendment, which expresses the House's opinion but does not make law.

The amendment to a bill funding State Department operations, was passed on a voice vote. The United States has pledged \$500 million in aid to the Palestinians over five years, of which \$220 million has already been distributed.

The State Department deplored the killing of the land dealers and said it was outrageous for the death penalty to be imposed for such an act. But it has said Washington plans to continue giving the pledged aid.

"This is the kind of action we identify with Nazis. This is the kind of racist activity that this planet holds to be reprehensible and unacceptable," Mr. Gingrich said.

A succession of Republican and Democratic legislators rose to support Mr. Gingrich in a debate marked by unanimity.

## Israel happy with Gingrich...

(Continued from page 1)

Jews faced execution. The PNA denied any involvement in the killings.

Palestinian police Tuesday detained Hussein Ilayan Al Sawadeh, who heads their military intelligence in the West Bank town of Ramallah, on suspicion of misuse of authority.

Israel Radio reported that Mr. Sawadeh was suspected of involvement in the land dealers' killings.

"The Palestinians must be on notice that these senseless actions must stop. The vigilante mur-

der of realtors by Palestinian security officials is an egregious violation of human rights and of international norms," Mr. Gingrich said in an emotional floor speech.

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## Prince Hassan leaves...

(Continued from page 1)

a one-day working visit to Turkey where he will meet with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller.

In response to a question by Jordan New Agency (Petra), Minister of Information Samir Mutawi underlined the important role of Turkey

as a key state in the region that enjoys excellent and historic relations with the Arab World.

Dr. Mutawi said the talks Prince Hassan will hold in Turkey will reflect Jordan's firm and outstanding position which calls for peaceful solutions to conflicts, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and respect for the sovereignty of other states.

Dr. Mutawi emphasised that Jordan believes in positive engagement and dialogue with friendly and neighbouring countries as means of addressing issues of common concern.

Before leaving Turkey for Britain en route to the United States, Prince Hassan will deliver a lecture on the latest developments in the region.

## Egyptian envoy...

(Continued from page 1)

due to meet Mr. Netanyahu in Jerusalem and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza City during his trip.

The Palestinians have boycotted peace talks since mid-March when Mr. Netanyahu ordered work to begin on a settlement for some 30,000 Jews in east Jerusalem, which Palestinians hope to

make the capital of a future state.

Mr. Arafat has demanded a halt to all Jewish settlements in occupied areas as a condition for resuming talks.

Mr. Netanyahu has rejected the demand and insisted in return that the Palestinians crack down on anti-Israeli violence before the peace process can resume.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel:  
**684311 - 699634**



**تحتى الجمعية العلمية الهاشمية**  
**اسرة مدرسة البكالوريا / عمان**  
**بمجلس أمنائها**  
**والهيتين الادارية والتدريسية فيها والاهالي والطلبة**  
**لكونها المدرسة الاولى في الاردن التي تحصل على**  
**الاعتماد**  
**من قبل المجلس الاوروبى للمدارس الدولية**  
**ووكالة نيوانجلاند للمدارس والكليات**  
**ECIS / NEASC**

**The Hashemite Society for Education**  
congratulates the  
**Amman Baccalaureate School**  
Board of Trustees,  
Teaching and Administrative Staff,  
Parents and Students  
on becoming the first School in Jordan to be  
**Accredited**  
by the European Council of International Schools (ECIS)  
and  
New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

## Minister belittles ISO, highlights IPRs and trademarks for creativity, development

### Mulki pushes industries to rise to international standards

By Ghafiah Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki this week reiterated the importance of bringing up national industries to international standards as part of Jordan's efforts to move towards globalising its economy.

"We can't hide behind barriers. We should free ourselves from constraints," said Dr. Mulki in a lecture at the Jordan Trade Association.

The minister was referring to the government's plans to further support the Jordanian economy through attracting direct foreign investments as well as encouraging the role of the private sector.

Dr. Mulki detailed to his audience of economists and businessmen the benefits Jordan will gain from the partnership agreement initiated with the European Union last April.

However, Dr. Mulki warned that if Jordan does not take advantage of the 12-year grace period accorded to it under the agreement, and if the private and public sectors do

not cooperate, the Jordanian industries will not be able to meet international standards.

While Jordan is negotiating to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Dr. Mulki reiterated the need to start implementing international economic concepts.

If Jordan wants to be part of a global economy it should seriously consider intellectual property rights (IPRs) in order to encourage creativity, development and the use of modern technology, Dr. Mulki asserted.

"It is not right to continue without protecting IPRs," he added.

Dr. Mulki emphasised the importance of attracting direct foreign investments and encouraging the participation of foreign investors in the Jordanian industries.

He also stressed the importance of having viable Jordanian trademarks that can have good reputation in neighbouring markets.

The minister stressed the need to remove the "negative lists" from the articles of the free trade agreements Jordan signed or is about to sign with Arab countries.

"Arab free trade agreements should not include a negative list. All barriers should be eliminated in order for goods to move freely and for industrialists to be creative," asserted Dr. Mulki.

He was referring to the list of products which are not entitled for custom exemptions.

He said that an Arab free trade agreement will be implemented starting next year as customs will be reduced by 10 per cent every year over a period of ten years.

Dr. Mulki said that Jordan and Morocco are seriously considering signing a free trade agreement "without a negative list."

He added that Jordan could use Morocco's strategic location to penetrate Latin American markets. Morocco, on the other hand, could benefit from Jordan's location to export to the Middle East and Central Asia.

The decision to transfer Aqaba to a free zone area is the first step towards setting up large free zones on the borders with Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, said Dr. Mulki.

Referring to the Jordanian

land transport operations, Dr. Mulki said it would be more viable to consolidate the present fleet of trucks as there is an intention to construct rail roads within a period of seven years.

The lecturer said his ministry issued regulations to cancel export licences on most exports except for four products related to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ministry is preparing a list to partially and gradually exempt raw material inputs from custom duties, said Dr. Mulki, stressing the importance of meeting international specifications and standards.

While recognising the importance of obtaining the ISO certificate, Dr. Mulki said it does not constitute a full proof of a 100 per cent quality achievement.

"An ISO certificate could mean good management and controls. It doesn't certify that products are of a high quality," the minister asserted.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaiga and Supply Secretary General Mohammad Smadi.

#### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Be sure to listen to the opinions of others today, as these could help you update your point of view. You will be presented with a fine opportunity to advance in your career by gaining the attention of a bigwig.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) With the assistance of an expert today, you can get the big idea you have been labouring on across to a superior. Be more considerate of your mate later this evening and do something special for him or her which will be appreciated.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be more enthusiastic about your career activities today, and your attitude will spread to fellow associates. You can make a shrewd business deal later this evening by developing a method of operation which can make you successful.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Your energy level will be unusually high today, so use it to get ahead on your career activities. Later this evening, relax with your good friends and prepare for the tasks you must accomplish in the days ahead.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Do something special for your mate today which will show that you care for him or her. Stop limiting your own progress, and think big for a change, so that you can gain the success for which you strive for in the days ahead.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your family can be greatly pleased today by a few small improvements around the house which will make it more efficient and raise the value of your home. Use care in handling the details of all your undertakings.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) If a visit to a good

friend has been put off for much too long, this is a good time to make it, however, be very careful while driving on the highway later this evening. You can meet with fellow associates a devise a plan of action.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You should not ignore practical concerns today in order to have a good time with your friends. Enlist the assistance of a close friend to do some home improvement tasks which have been put aside for too long.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) If you get up and at 'em early today, you can make a fantastic coup in business which will make your life quite successful. Put some time aside for recreational activities later this evening and have a fun time.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be very careful about losing your temper with anyone today, or you'll regret it at another time. Try to come to a better understanding with your mate so that there won't be a difficult situation present.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You will have the ability to deepen relationships and improve understanding today, so get together with all your good friends and make a plan of action for recreational activities which will be fun to participate in at this time.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) With a little bit of effort today, you can greatly improve your credit and civic situation for the better. Others will listen to your opinions readily, thereby making your career activities much more successful in the days ahead.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone

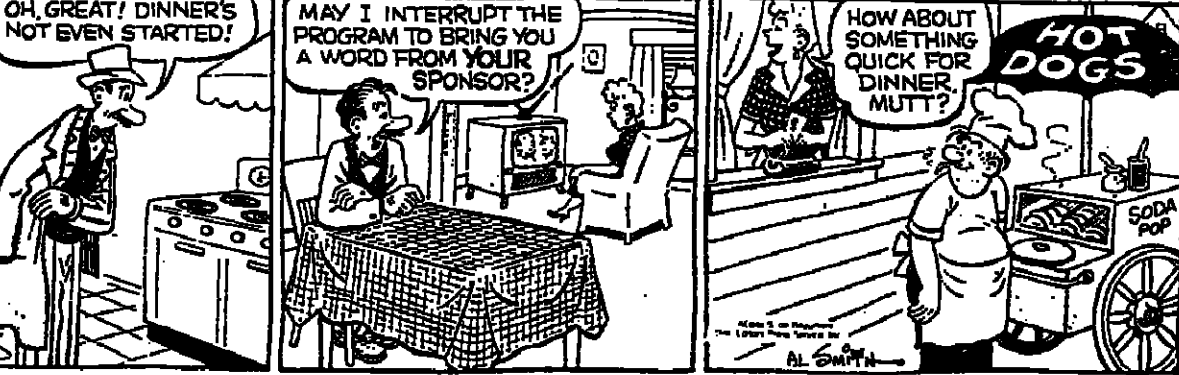
#### Peanuts



#### Andy Capp



#### Mutt'n'Jeff



#### REUTERS REUTERS

#### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates										
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF	
US Dollar	1.7156	0.5113	1.4360	111.18	1.3665	1689.70	1.9295	5.8005		
DE Mark	0.5829	-	0.3561	0.8370	64.79	0.8080	884.58	1.1244	3.3807	
GB Sterling	1.6358	2.8067	-	2.3516	161.86	2.2580	2764.01	3.1559	9.4885	
CH Franc	0.0094	119.39	0.4252	-	77.38	0.9641	1175.85	134.41	4.0365	
JP Yen	0.0090	1.5422	0.5494	1.2823	-	1.2463	15.20	173.48	5.2183	
CA Dollar	0.7212	0.7194	0.7194	0.7194	1.25	-	0.7194	0.7194	0.7194	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0141	0.3612	0.0849	1823.46	0.5198	-	11.41	3.4290	
NL Guilder	0.5163	88.91	0.3166	74.47	67.55	0.7185	875.74	-	3.0056	
FR Franc	0.1724	0.2957	0.1053	24.7566	19.13	0.2389	33.25	33.2500	-	

Middle Eastern Currencies										
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP	
US Dollar	0.7086	3.7503	0.3770	3.6398	0.3021	3.6726	1.5360	3.3895		
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2970	0.5325	5.1410	0.4266	5.1873	2169.49	4.7874	
GB Sterling	0.2866	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0805	0.98	409.57	0.9038	
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8781	9.9483	-	8.66	0.8012	9.74	4074.49	8.9911	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0830	1.01	422.00	0.9312	
Kuwait Dinar	3.3107	2.3446	12.4162	1.8481	12.05	-	12.16	5088.25	0.9312	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0212	0.9911	0.0822	-	418.23	0.9229	
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4809	2.4416	0.2454	2.3697	0.1966	2.3910	-	2.2067	
Egyptian	0.2950	0.2089	1.1065	0.1112	1.0739	0.0891	1.0835	453.17	-	

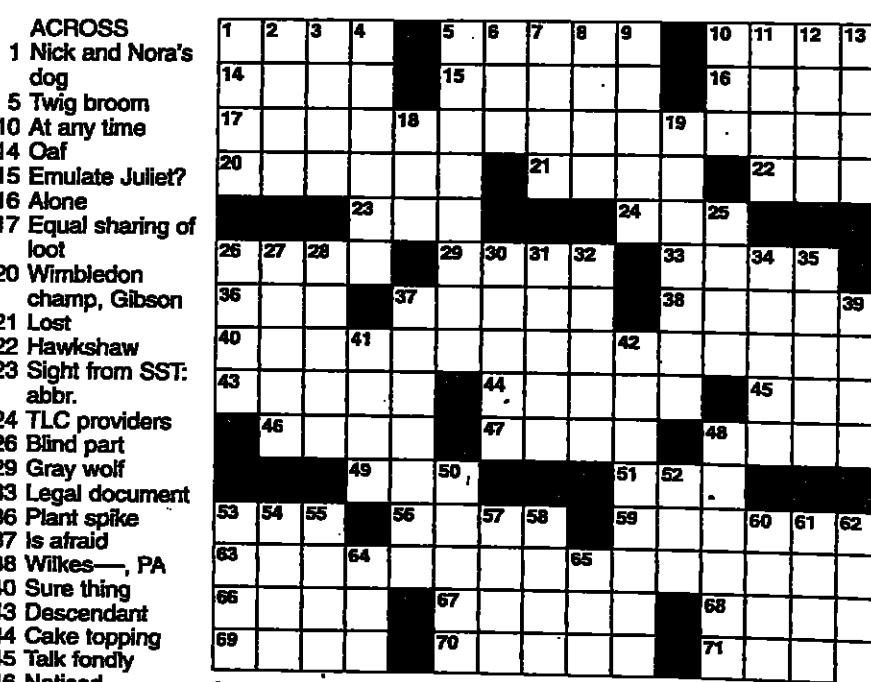
Energy										
Commodity	Last	Revised								
Brent	17.35	17.35								
W. Texa	16.90	16.90								
Bonny	17.35	17.35								
Dubai	16.95	16.95								
UL Gas	190.00	190.00								

Metal Prices										
Metal	Buy	Offer								
Gold (oz's)	343.8	344.3								
Silver (oz's)	4.78	4.8								
Platinum (oz's)	455	460								
AL (3 Months)	1626	1629								
CU (3 Months)	2555	2560								
Zinc (3 Months)	1371	1373								
Lead (3 Months)	640	642								
Ni (3 Months)	7330	7350								

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)										
Period	1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1-3	3-6
USD	5.59	5.70	5.82	6.03	5.59	5.70	5.82	6.03	5.59	5.70
GBP	6.48	6.50	6.62	6.96	6.48	6.50	6.62	6.96	6.48	6.50
JPY	0.53	0.56	0.65	0.75	0.53	0.56	0.65	0.75	0.53	0.56
DEM	2.87	3.02	3.08	3.08	2.87	3.02	3.08	3.08	2.87	3.02
FRF	3.23	3.34	3.43	3.47	3.23	3.34	3.43	3.47	3.23	3.34
CHF	0.87	1.00	1.12	1.31	0.87	1.00	1.12	1.31	0.87	1.00
ITL	6.88	6.88	6.81	6.73	6.88	6.88	6.81	6.73	6.88	6.88

Main Equity Indices										
Source	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls			
New York	DOW JONES	7567.46	28.19	0.37	7588.34	7534.43	7539.27			
New York	S&P 500	868.62	3.35	0.39	868.68	865.15	865.27			
London	FT-SE 100	4732.7	-8.9	-0.15	4759.3	4722.4	4739.6			
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20289.93	-242.62	-1.18	20633.9	20282.4	20332.6			
Paris	CAC 40	2694.54	30.35	1.14	2706.48	2673.5	2664.18			
Frankfurt	DAX	3677.43	12.42	0.34	3685.45	3667.91	3665.01			

#### THE Daily Crossword



JOD Cross Rates										
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell					
Coffee (c/lb)	216	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710					
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1455	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1587	1.1645					
Sugar (\$/ton)	328	Spot	DE Mark	0.4127	0.4148					
Wheat (\$/ton)	150.5	Spot	CH Franc	0.4823	0.4948					
Soya (c/lb)	22.7	Spot	FR Franc	0.1221	0.1227					
Tea (slg/kg)	150	Spot	JP Yen	0.635	0.6382					
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3671	0.3689					
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	IT Lira	0.4162	0.4203					

DOWN				All rights reserved.			
3 Cluster	35 Talk nonsense						
4 In addition	37 From Helsinki						
5 Come to pass	39 Chemical compound						
6 Wallach or Whitney	41 Sorrows	53 Civil rights org.	60 African antelope				
7 Chesterfield	42 In mint condition	54 Ready	61 Tilt				
8 Chooses	48 Type of tiger	55 Opera heroine	62 Pound of poetry				
9 Founder of Barnard	50 Scale	57 Certain exam	64 Felix, for one				
	52 Mail —	58 Had on	65 Cacophony				

#### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Listen to, and learn from today, persons of vast experience, however, don't act too hastily with this newfound knowledge, mull it over first before you proceed. Later this evening will be good for going out on the town.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You should not beat around the bush with anyone today. Just stay whatever is on your mind, and get good results. Use your creative talents and get noticed by those in authority so that you can prosper in your career activities.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A friend may be urging you today to get into some risky financial venture, however, rely on your intuition instead. Drive with the utmost care later this evening while on the highway and thereby avoid any difficulties.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A person who is too often apt to go off on crazy tangents today could deter your progress if you allow it, so try to avoid this person. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people for advice.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) If you



## 'Empowering workers can be a major force in Jordan's economic and social development'

By Tanya Habbouja  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Empowering employees so as to increase profits, penetrate foreign markets, and promote investment was the subject of a seminar held for the business community Wednesday by the U.S.-based Vision Management and Consulting Inc. (VMC).

"Jordan is a land of opportunities," VMC Project Director Bernard Lendman said. "Our goal is to promote Jordanian exports as well as foreign investment in Jordan."

The seminar, which was attended by approximately 200 local business persons, examined the means to succeed within competitive international markets.

Mr. Lendman emphasized the necessity of "empowering" employees to achieve a successful, profitable business.

He said that Vision was in the business of empowering companies in emerging markets such as Jordan.

"Your employees are your most valuable resource," he explained. "If workers are not

empowered, companies can never meet the standards of the competitive global market."

He asserted that there were no shortcuts or miracles for a successful business, but only hard work and keen observation of international business strategies.

When one local business woman asked how to empower employees and motivate them when wages were low, Mr. Lendman suggested incentives and treating employees as "stakeholders."

"Train them to understand the science of business — information has to be disseminated among employees," he affirmed.

Mr. Lendman suggested offering pay increases

when profits increase.

Empowering workers can be a major force in Jordan's economic and social development, he said.

"Set high goals, communicate them to your employees, and work together as a team to achieve them," he added.

He said that if the peace process was successful, Jordan would receive fierce competition from the West Bank and Israel.

"We are at a critical point, local companies must change," he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Lendman also lectured on strategic selling strategies to penetrate U.S. and other markets, as well as pursuing foreign partners.

He said that developing companies' sales and marketing capabilities could be achieved through diligence and creativity.

"If you want to find new customers and markets, it will only happen if you invest the time and resources to aggressively market and sell your strategies," he said.

Vision was established in 1990 to provide strategic marketing and management consulting services to facilitate business in emerging markets.

The Vision seminar was sponsored by the Investment Promotion Corporation, Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation, and the U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce.



Minister Saket chairing the meeting (Petra photo)

## Jordanian-Iraqi land transport company tell minister of poor, reduced business

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Bassam Al Saket Wednesday visited the head office of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company (JILTC) where he listened to complaints about poor business and reduced transportation operations between Jordan and Iraq.

The company's general manager and senior officials told the minister that most of the company's 344 trucks have been idle in the past few months due to the low volume of goods moving from Jordan to Iraq and the reduced amounts of foodstuffs that the Ministry of Supply has been transporting through the company's trucks.

They explained that the joint company, which was established in 1980 as part of the Iraqi-Jordanian endeavours for integration and now employs 700 workers and drivers, has been specialising in the

transportation of various Iraqi-bound goods, mainly food from Amman to Baghdad, and also in the transportation of Iraqi oil products to Jordan in addition to transporting goods within Jordan like salt, phosphate and food supplies imported by the Ministry of Supply.

The minister, who also heard a report about the company's various activities and tasks, called on the various government departments including the Ministry of Supply, to support the company which, he said, is one of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi projects which aim at achieving economic integration among Arab states.

Dr. Saket urged the company's management to step up efforts to compete with other land transport carriers and operate on commercial basis.

The joint company has a \$25 million capital owned equally by Jordan and Iraq.

## Saudi group eyes Alitalia — report

ROME (AFP) — A group of Saudi Arabians has shown interest in buying 50 per cent of the Italian state airline Alitalia for \$470 million, the ANSA news agency has reported.

The report, quoting the English-language Saudi Gazette in Saudi Arabia, said that the initial indication had been published in the Al Iqtisadiyyah newspaper.

The businessmen were believed to have offered 1.8 million riyals (\$470 million).

A spokesman for IRI, the holding company which controls Alitalia, said that he was not aware of any contacts with Arabian investors and that IRI had not planned to dispose of shares until the airline had been restructured.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Committee finds liquidation best solution to end impasse at Jordan Precast Concrete Industry Co.

A NEW six-member board of directors has been elected to liquidate the Jordan Precast Concrete Industry Company due to its deteriorating financial conditions and to salvage to the shareholders what is left of the company's property.

Youssef Hiyasat, the head of the committee which was previously appointed by the minister of industry and trade to examine the situation at the company, told the general assembly that the committee strived very hard to look into the company's state of affairs. He noted that the firm and the plant were impounded by the Arab Bank and were put up for sale to repay the bank JD3.7 million of debt.

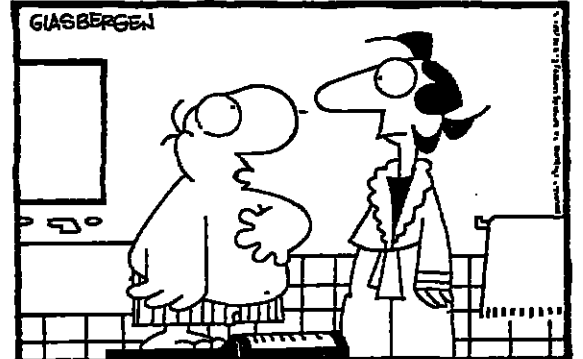
Mr. Hiyasat who is the director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department said the committee was able to postpone the auction procedures to sell the company's property including a 200-dunum land in the Qastal area. He urged the elected board to take all the measures to liquidate the company in order to preserve what is left of shareholders' rights, as the committee "became fully convinced that there is no viability from reoperating the factory."

Noting that the accounts showed that the company had no cash and that the workers had brought lawsuits against the company demanding the payment of JD45,000, Mr. Hiyasat said the firm was at an impasse especially when no financing could be secured to repay the credits of the bank. "The debt due to the Arab Bank amounts to JD3.7 million but the board of directors doubts this figure as the original amount owed was only about JD1.3 million," Mr. Hiyasat added.

He indicated that the committee failed to evaluate the remaining assets due to the lack of information and financial capabilities to conduct a revaluation at present. No financial information for 1996 were presented but the 1995 results showed the company's working capital in the red and continuously worsening as the amount was JD4.4 million compared to JD4.1 million in 1994.

Key financial indicators reveal that the liabilities of the company to the shareholders' equity was 135.3 per cent in 1995 and that in the same year the accumulated losses to the capital reached 158 per cent. (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I started a diet yesterday, but I quit when I started looking like one of those models from the cologne ads."

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VERAG

SOMEQ

THRAHE

LEWFOL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THEY

Saturday's Jumbles: ORBIT GULE LEGACY DRUDGE  
Answer: What the insects turned the baby's outing into — A "BUGGY" RIDE

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHORISANI											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 11/06/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / S	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
289.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	11.7	1.57	7	340	86690	255.50	254.00	-1.50	
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.7	0.00	28	7346	15015	2.06	2.04	-0.02	
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.7	0.00	3	10550	32255	3.12	3.19	+0.07	
1.210	880	W.D. EAST INV. BK.	63.1	0.00	8	3050	2955	3.88	3.86	-0.02	
2.480	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.4	7.45	3	400	1362	2.28	2.27	-0.01	
5.200	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.6	3.96	25	10412	51042	4.91	4.90	-0.01	
3.250	2.440	JOR. INVEST. BANK	11.4	0.00	18	3723	11893	3.24	3.20	-0.04	
1.050	780	JOR. GULF BANK	5.0	8.33	29	98150	79917	8.81	8.84	+0.03	
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.29	14	2790	10173	3.65	3.65	-0.01	
1.920	1.120	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	99.1	0.00	6	1900	2150	1.12	1.13	+0.01	
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FTS. BANK	20.2	0.00	2	115	361	3.08	3.15	+0.07	
2.830	1.000	BETT. AL-MAL (BETUNA)	7	13.76	3	850	917	1.04	1.09	+0.05	
1.440	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	4	2850	3235	1.11	1.10	-0.01	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 194.84	CHNG: -0.41	150	142678	298863				
2.350	1.600	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.8	11.76	3	2000	3400	1.70	1.70	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.58	CHNG: 0.00	4	2016	3445				
1.820	1.480	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	24	12712	21163	1.66	1.67	+0.01	
9.250	7.800	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	11.5	1.38	8	2680	2144	8.00	8.00	-	
1.380	930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	3.03	12	750	9756	1.32	1.33	+0.01	
860	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	25.7	0.00	7	5900	2930	4.49	5.0	+0.01	
9.300	6.900	ALRAI	12.5	7.14	1	100	700	7.00	7.00	-	
7.570	4.350	AD-DESTON	10.7	5.13	1	110	411	4.13	4.11	-0.02	
2.050	1.170	SHIP. EAST HOTELS	19.5	0.00	2	122	154	1.24	1.28	+0.04	
3.720	2.900	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.7	0.00	4	725	2137	2.95	2.95	-	
1.220	960	BANKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	104	104	1.04	1.04	-	
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	7.9	6.63	2	850	1411	1.67	1.66	-0.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.48	CHNG: +0.07	57	28273	41038				
4.450	3.050	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.4	2.70	36	18382	74679	4.07	4.07	-	
4.140	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.1	2.50	8	20900	83600	4.00	4.00	-	
7.050	4.950	JOR. POTASH CO.	15.4	3.03	3	2450	16170	6.60	6.60	-	
10.250	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	9.12	8	258	2507	9.70	9.75	+0.05	
7.250	6.000	JORDAN TANNING	7.4	4.99	2	60	3861	6.00	6.01	+0.01	
3.250	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	9	0.00	4	1950	3861	1.97	1.98	+0.01	
7.150	6.420	JOR. WORTED MILLS	10.5	3.08	4	512	3324	6.50	6.50	-	
4.000	3.040	ARAB FARM. MANT.	10.8	5.12	27	24284	94883	3.85	3.91	+0.06	
1.680	1.130	RAPID INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	1	250	293	1.14	1.17	+0.03	
5.540	4.250	DAR AL-AMAL INV. FTS.	13.5	4.82	9	1764	9784	5.53	5.53	-	
960	480	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	2	1500	750	1.50	1.50	-	
1.820	1.010	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	1500	28769	1.87	1.87	-	
1.400	630	INT. CHEN. INDS.	17.1	5.26	1	150	285	2.00	1.90	-0.10	
1.010	550	JOR. SULPHUR-CHEN	9	0.00	11	6200	2452	1.56	1.56	-	
1.670	1.120	ARAB FARM. CHEN.	18.4	6.86	7	1995	2854	1.44	1.44	-	
2.540	1.390	INV. MED. INDS.	7	1.18	11	14750	20651	1.40	1.40	-	
1.530	1.120	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	15.2	8.85	4	900	1017	1.13	1.13	-	
1.220	840	JOR. FIB. CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	7	6000	5200	0.87	0.87	-	
2.090	1.510	EL - CAN READY WEAR	54.2	0.00	9	4400	6776	1.54	1.54	-	
1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.3	0.00	3	2200	2530	1.15	1.15	-	
1.340	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	40.9	0.00	6	1900	1710	0.90	0.90	-	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 128.08	CHNG: +0.07	196	157666	364050				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 159.47	CHNG: -0.18	407	330333	707395				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 11/06/1997											
640	350	CENTRAL CHEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	2	250	93	35	37	+0.02	
730	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	13.6	0.00	20	16400	8203	51	51	-	
840	450	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	17	53150	9549	69	68	-0.01	
780	370	ARAB FTS. INVEST.	9	0.00	13	88250	46740	53	52	-0.01	
950	730	AL-SABAH INV. 75%	9	0.00	3	6500	3575	81	80	-0.01	
730	450	ARAB FTS. INVEST.	9	0.00	2	450	243	54	54	-	
630	430	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	49.5	0.00	6	4200	2236	43	43	-	
720	470	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	3	610	190	47	47	-	
770	400	NATL. TEXTILE - BAKHAYO	11.2	0.00	51	135480	83487	63	60	-0.03	
910	710	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	6.76	17	128500	9250	74	74	-	
580	430	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	9	0.00	4	698	347	50	50	-	
1.260	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	2	250	163	91	90	-0.01	
910	760	INDS. CERAMIC	21.8	0.00	8	1424	1378	82	82	-	
530	350	TEXTILE MAINT.	9	0.00	1	150	50	35	33	-0.02	
1.000	810	NAT. ALUMINIUM 75%	9	0.00	10	10833	6282	84	83	-0.01	
1.020	720	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	38.6	0.00	17	2500	200	82	80	-0.02	
870	530	IND. ENST. COMPLEX	8.3	14.93	17	13000	8780	66	67	+0.01	
GRAND TOTAL					178	346121	181039				

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# Surgeon unsure whether Graf will play again

## Steffi to miss Wimbledon, U.S. Open after knee surgery

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The surgeon who operated on Steffi Graf's left knee said Wednesday there is no guarantee she will ever be able to resume competitive tennis.

Graf underwent a two-hour operation Tuesday to repair cartilage and tendon damage and said she expects to be sidelined for four to six months, missing Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. She is the defending champion in both Grand Slam events.

Graf was being transferred Wednesday from a private clinic in Vienna to a rehabilitation centre at Gars Am Kamp in lower Austria.

The centre, where Graf will undergo weeks of physiotherapy, is frequented by prominent Austrian and foreign athletes, politicians, actors and other celebrities. It is run by Willi Dungi, Austria's best known health guru.

Graf, 27, issued a statement after the operation saying she was "confident that I will return to the sport which I love so much — and in good health."

But her surgeon, Reinhard Weinstabl, was less certain about whether she will be able to resume her career.

"That is certainly our aim," he told the associated press by telephone.

"Whether that aim can be reached one cannot say now."

Weinstabl said the situation was difficult because of Graf's long history of problems with her left knee. She was out for three months earlier this year after arthroscopic surgery on the knee.

Weinstabl said all post-operative measures "are nothing but an attempt to restore (Graf's health) in an optimal way. Whether this will succeed one cannot yet say ... A first step has been made."

The surgery came less than a week after Graf's quarterfinal loss in the French Open to Amanda Coetzer.

Weinstabl said Graf will return often to the Wiener Privatklinik, the private hospital where he performed the surgery, throughout the rehabilitation phase at Dungi's centre.

The Gars Am Kamp centre has been used by numerous stars for rehabilitation. Former Formula One racing champion Niki Lauda recuperated there from severe burns suffered in a crash at Nuerburgring in Germany more than 20 years ago. Lauda returned there recently following a kidney transplant.

In Germany, some news reports speculated that the operation and lay-

off could mean the end of Graf's career.

"Steffi serious operation — no more tennis?" said the front-page headline in the mass-circulation Bild Zeitung.

But the German Olympic team and tennis federation doctor, Joseph Keul, said Graf should make a full recovery.

"It is a sign of wear and tear, that however by no means has to mean the end of a career," he said. "I think that Steffi Graf will be 100 percent again by the end of the year."

Even if she does return, Graf will have a long hill to climb to return to the top.

Graf, who has won 21 Grand Slam titles, dropped to No. 3 in the WTA Tour rankings after her quarterfinal loss in Paris. That's her lowest ranking since 1986.

Missing Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and the season-ending chase championships in New York would mean that Graf would probably drop to between 15 and 20 in the rankings.

The last time Graf went a year without winning a Grand Slam title was in 1986 and her lowest world ranking was No. 22 at the end of 1984, just as she was starting her career.



Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone, the 1997 NBA MVP, talks to reporters about his team's mood following their two straight wins over the Chicago Bulls in the NBA Finals, during a press conference in Salt Lake City. The Jazz came back from a 2-0 deficit in the series (Reuters photo)



Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan talks to reporters in Salt Lake City about his team following their two straight losses to the Utah Jazz in the NBA finals. The Bulls failed to capitalize on their 2-0 lead in the series (Reuters photo)

## Becker makes second successful comeback

HALLE, Germany (AFP) — Three time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker qualified for the second round of the grass tournament here Tuesday in his second comeback from injury this year.

The 29-year-old German, who pulled out of the French Open because of injury after missing the early part of the season with a right wrist injury, beat compatriot Alexander Radulescu 6-3, 7-6 (7/1) in front of a record crowd of over 12,000.

"It was a good start to my grass court season. I haven't served as well all season," Becker, seeded 4,

said. Another German Thomas Haas confirmed his rapid rise up the rankings, after reaching the semi-finals at Monte Carlo, by disposing of the sixth seed Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-2 in just 41 minutes.

Dutchman Paul Haarhuis was another giantkiller, beating fifth seed Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, but two other seeds came through. Petr Korda in three sets against Spaniard Tomas Carbonell and second seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov lost just two games against Haarhuis, compatriot Sjeng Schaiken.

## Villeneuve warned for criticising changes

PARIS (R) — World championship leader Jacques Villeneuve of Canada received a warning from motor racing officials on Wednesday for criticising planned regulation changes.

Williams driver Villeneuve said after appearing before the International Automobile Federation's (FIA) World Council in Paris that he had been warned but had received no other sanction.

"It's just a warning which means I might get a suspension next time, if there is a next time," he said.

The Canadian had created uproar in the paddock at Imola last April by insisting the changes for 1998, involving the use of grooved tyres and narrower cars, were "ridiculous".

"It was a discussion to make things clear and everything went well," he said after being heard by FIA President Max Mosley and other officials for 10 minutes. "The problem is not what I've said but the way I said it. I should have used other words."

At Imola, on the eve of the opening day's practice for the San Marino Grand Prix, Villeneuve had said: "These new regulations are just a joke. To run on these tyres is just ridiculous. It takes all the precision out of the driving and the racing — as well as the fun — and it is just a ridiculous idea."

Mosley said in Monaco last month there would be no going back on the changes, adding that they had been proposed by the team's engineers, agreed unanimously and passed by the FIA's world council.

## Agassi playing at Wimbledon — for now

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Andre Agassi is entered for Wimbledon — for now anyway.

The 1992 Wimbledon champion has hardly played at all this season. He withdrew last month from the French Open with an injured right wrist — and used the same reason two weeks before to pull out of the German open.

"As of this moment he's in for Wimbledon," Wimbledon spokesman Johnny Perkins said Tuesday.

But doubts continue to persist whether Agassi will actually turn up for the tournament, which starts June 23.

The 27-year-old Agassi, married in April

to actress Brooke Shields, has shown little interest recently in playing tennis. And his play has reflected it.

The former world's top-ranked player has fallen to No. 29 and has lost five of his last six matches on the ATP Tour.

Since losing in the semifinals in San Jose, Calif., in February, Agassi dropped his opening matches in Memphis, Scottsdale and Key Biscayne in the United States.

Agassi beat Jaime Oncins in Atlanta in April but then lost his next match to Magnus Norman — and hasn't played since.

## Wimbledon Football Club goes Norwegian

OSLO (AFP) — Two Norwegian investors have bought English football club Wimbledon for 300 million kroner (\$42.2 million), the Norwegian news agency NTB reported on Wednesday.

Kjell Inge Roekke and Bjoern Rune Gjelsten, two of the main owners of Norwegian industrial giant Aker RGI, purchased 80 per cent of the shares in the London club in a deal signed with Wimbledon owner Sam Hammam in Oslo on Monday.

Hammam will retain a minority holding in the club and will maintain responsibility for the daily running of the club, NTB said, adding that the club has plans to build a new football stadium in London.

Roekke and Gjelsten have been in search of a top division English club for some time. According to the Norwegian agency, the pair last year looked into the possibility of buying Leeds United.

The two new owners hope to make money on their investment by signing lucrative contracts for television rights, for the Wimbledon brand name, for sponsorship contracts and ticket sales and by selling some of the shares to other investors.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Sebastian Coe backs Athens' Olympic bid

LONDON (AP) — Two-time Olympic gold medalist Sebastian Coe has endorsed Athens' bid to host the 2004 summer Olympics. "The Greeks always had strong arguments for holding the Olympic Games, particularly in the case of the 1996 Games when the historical and cultural arguments were on their side," the former British middle-distance runner said. "I am among those who believe in tradition, which is why I don't want to see the Olympic games become just another Coe's statements were made to a Greek television channel and released here by the Athens bid committee. Athens, which hosted the first modern Olympics in 1896, lost out to Atlanta in the bidding for the centennial Games in 1996. Athens is one of five cities in the running for the 2004 games. The others are Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Rome, and Stockholm, Sweden. The winner will be selected by the International Olympic Committee on Sept. 5. Coe, who won gold medals in the 1,500 meters at the 1980 and 1984 Olympics, is the latest high-profile athlete to endorse one of the bidding cities. Last month, Carl Lewis announced his support for Stockholm.

### Laudrup staying at Rangers

GLASGOW (R) — Danish striker Brian Laudrup said on Wednesday he would

complete his existing contract with Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers, quashing talk that he was moving to English title holders Manchester United. After a meeting with club chairman David Murray, Laudrup said: "After positive talks I have decided to complete my existing contract with Rangers. The next season is a very important one for the club and hopefully I can do well once the new team is assembled and settled in."

### Torrence withdraws from U.S. event

INDIANAPOLIS (E) — Injured defending world 100-metre champion Gwen Torrence withdrew from the U.S. Championships on Tuesday, depriving August's World Championships of yet another American star. Torrence, who has been slowed by knee and leg injuries most of the spring, had planned to run the 200 metres at the championships, which start on Wednesday, "but that is not going to happen," her husband and coach, Manley Waller, said. World record-holders Michael Johnson, Dan O'Brien and Mike Powell also have withdrawn from the meeting because of injuries. All are ineligible for the world championships under U.S. rules which limit U.S. world team members to the top three finishers in the national meet.

## Tiger Woods has reached his limits as a do-gooder

BETHESDA, Maryland (AFP) — Tiger Woods struck a blow against racism with an historic Masters triumph. But there are some battles he is simply unwilling to fight.

Woods, the first black to win a major golf championship, drew the line here Tuesday at sacrifices to combat sex discrimination, the high cost of his sponsor Nike's clothes or the low pay of the Indonesians who make them.

"I can't be a champion of all causes, as much as people would like me to be," Woods said. "Sometimes they don't. But a lot of times they do. The only thing I ask is for me to just be a golfer. All I want to do is play golf."

That has been almost impossible for Woods, here for the 97th U.S. Open, since he became rich and famous and followed that by winning at Augusta National Golf Club, where blacks were once banned.

"Once I won the Masters, my life did change," Woods said.

"People are starting to recognise me when I go into a mall or go out to dinner or hang out in public. That has changed. That has been the biggest adjustment."

It also magnifies his choices, such as practising last week at Lochinvar, a men-only private club in Houston where Tiger teacher Butch Harmon works. "My pro is employed there. He has no choice. He has to live and abide by the rules," Woods said. "I have to play there to test out what we work on. That's why we do it. There's no sense in getting a lesson and not testing."

A new "Tiger" logo and clothing line was unveiled by Nike here Tuesday while Woods signed a three-year deal to write instructional articles for Golf Digest, boosting his endorsement income above \$90 million.

Woods was asked about being a \$40 million sponsor billboard so young people will try to dress as he does and wear the same brand of shoes basketball star Michael Jordan endorses.

"That does happen. That's a fact of reality. All kids do that," Woods said. "I used to do that as a kid too. I used to think if I wore his shoes, I would be like Mike. Unfortunately, in reality, you just can't do that."

Woods could follow the example of basketball's Chris Webber, who dropped a one million-dollar Nike shoe deal because the product cost too much for children who grew up in the inner city as he did.

Nike already makes enough profit on clothes to help pay Tiger's contract. An Asian worker must toil at

\$1.60 an hour for 1,041,666 days non-stop to match Tiger's sponsorship income from the same firm.

Tiger backs his stance by saying his endorsement money goes to clinics that inspire youth.

"I'm trying to preach that golf is a sport for them and an opportunity to grow as a person," he said. "I think that's what really matters. What I like to harp on is their self-esteem."

"If society could have that, could have kids growing up with high self-esteem, motivated and living their life correctly and if they can care and share, society would be wonderful."

Woods enjoys his position as a role model despite the scrutiny it brings.

"It's an honour. I'm in a position where I can help people in a positive way. What more do you want?" he said. "It's so important."

You give kids hope. If people have positive role models, they will be positive people."

Woods admits his share of mistakes, from failing to sign autographs for fellow players to backing out of a dinner in his honour.

"Another thing that has changed dramatically in my life is the nit-picking of what I do, all the actions I take," Woods said.

"People look at them and critique them. Sometimes that's good. Sometimes that's bad."

"People fail to realise when you are 21, you are going to make mistakes. I'm going to make some too. I'm not trying to create excuses for myself. But I'm learning. I'm growing."

He is also taking advice from friends Jordan and Kevin Kostner.

"One thing they have both say, no matter what advice we give you ... is that you will find your own path that works best for you," he said. "As I go through life, I'm starting to find my own path."

That means preaching self-reliance when asked to give advice to a 13-year-old New Zealand Tiger wannabe who has dubbed himself Leopard Lee.

"You can't rely on a coach or anyone to do it for you. You have to go out there and push yourself to be the best," Woods said. "I'm sure he will get out here and he will be kicking my butt."

But not here and not this week.

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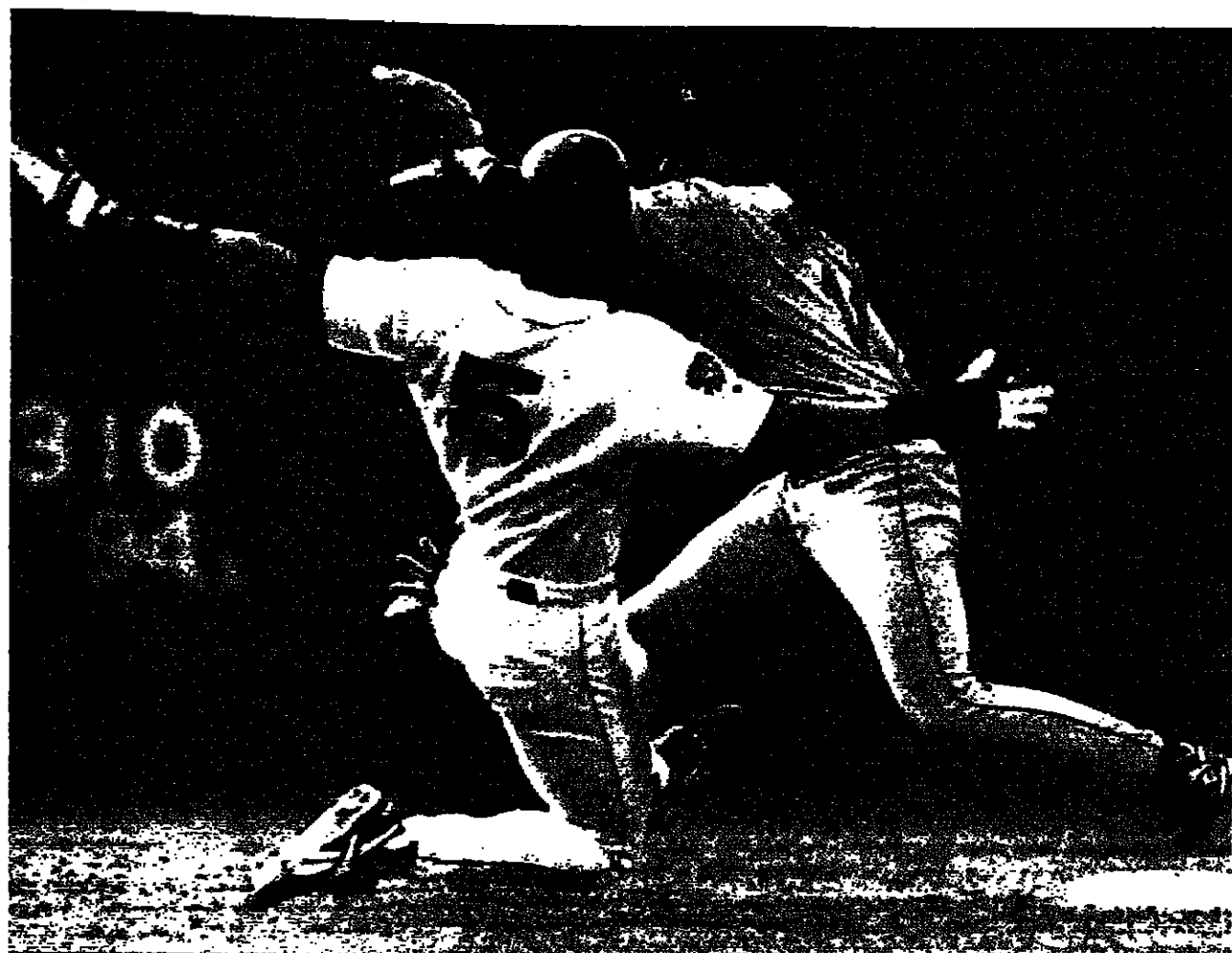
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Shortstop Mike Bordick (R) of the Baltimore Orioles waits for the throw from Orioles' catcher Lenny Webster as Webster throws out Nomar Garciaparra (L) of the Boston Red Sox on a steal attempt at second base in fourth inning action at Boston's Fenway Park. The Orioles defeated the Red Sox 7-2 in the first game of a "Twi-night" doubleheader (Reuters photo)

## Hentgen notches complete game win for Blue Jays

TORONTO (R) — Cy Young award winner Pat Hentgen tossed his fourth complete game of the season and pinch-hitter Juan Samuel highlighted a five-run seventh inning with a three-run triple as the Toronto Blue Jays rallied from an 8-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday.

Seattle starter Jamie Moyer had a 3-0 lead and was working on a shutout until running into trouble in the seventh, loading the bases with one out before Scott Sanders (2-6) relieved Moyer and got the second out.

Sanders walked home a run and Norm Charlton came in to face pinch-hitter Shawn Green. But the Blue Jays countered with Samuel, who bloomed the

first pitch down the right-field line and the ball bounced over Jay Buhner's head, clearing the bases for a 4-3 lead. Otis Nixon followed with an RBI double to cap the rally.

Samuel said he did not make good contact, "but it happened to land in the right place. Once the ball went over his head, the only thing on my mind was triple."

Hentgen (6-3) got the win despite surrendering solo homers to Buhner in the second, Joey Cora in the third and Ken Griffey, who smacked his 26th in the sixth.

In New York, Andy Pettitte notched his third complete game of the year and Luis Sojo and Bernie Williams homered in a six-run fifth inning as the Yankees

kept bombed the Chicago White Sox 12-1 for their fourth straight win.

Pettitte (8-3) came within two outs of a shutout, allowing an RBI single to Albert Belle with one down in the ninth. He gave up seven hits, struck out five and didn't walk a batter.

In the second game, B.J. Surhoff belted a two-run homer to cap a three-run second inning and three relievers combined to hold Boston scoreless over the final four frames as the Orioles topped the Red Sox 4-2.

Cal Ripken had four hits for the Orioles, who have won 11 of 13 games to take their record to a Major League best 42-17.

In Cleveland, Charles Nagy survived seven rocky innings to beat the Brewers for the third time this season and Marquis Grissom added two hits and a pair of RBIs to lead the Indians to a 5-4 win over Milwaukee.

Nagy (7-3) allowed four runs and 10 hits with one walk and five strikeouts. Cal Eldred (6-6) allowed five runs in 6 1/3 innings to lose to the Indians for the third time this year.

The Indians trailed 4-3 entering the bottom of seventh but scored twice to take the lead for good on a RBI single by Jim Thome and a sacrifice fly by David Justice.

In Detroit, Bobby Higginson and Damion Easley hit solo homers and in 6-4 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

Higginson's homer off Ariel Prieto (4-4) in the first inning tied the game at 1-1 and Easley's leadoff shot to left field in the fifth gave the Tigers a 5-1 advantage.

Oakland narrowed the margin to a run when Geronimo Berroa and Canseco smacked solo homers in the eighth.

At Minnesota, Bob Tewksbury pitched an eight-hitter and Paul Molitor went 4-for-4 as the Twins crushed the Texas Rangers 10-1.

Molitor, who scored three times, stroked a two-run triple in the first inning, singles in the third and fourth and a double in the sixth.

In Kansas City, Tim Lincecum hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs and Jason Dickson pitched seven strong innings as the Anaheim Angles (4-5) gave the Angels a 5-2 lead. Chad Kreuter added a solo homer in the ninth for Anaheim.

Dickson (8-2) allowed two runs on six hits. Appier, who was denied the milestone victory for the seventh straight time, went eight innings and allowed five runs and nine hits.

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## Championship honouring Firas Al Ajlouni kicks off Friday

Alkhas leaves for Korea to join Asian All-Star team

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four teams will contest the basketball championship named after 1967 war hero Firas Al Ajlouni which starts at the Sports Palace Friday.

Former President of the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) Awad Haddad, a veteran national team player and Aljouni's teammate, said Iraq's Al Karkh, Palestine's De La Salle, Jordan's Al Ahli and the Jordanian Air Force team will take part in the two-day tourney.

Held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan and HRH Prince Ra'd, the event honours Pilot Al Ajlouni who fell in the course of duty during the 1967 war. "Firas Al Ajlouni was a player in the Jordan Club and a member of the Kingdom's national basketball team. He set an example to the other players with his dedication to the game and his country," Haddad said.

The two visiting teams, De La Salle and Al Karkh will arrive Thursday. A special programme awaits the teams who will play their first matches on Friday.

Haddad said the teams will visit the city of Jerash Friday morning before De La Salle and the Air Force team play the opening match at 4 p.m. The second match will bring together Al Karkh and Al Ahli at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, players from the four teams will form two mixed teams and play the final match.

"We have invited the best teams to play in honouring all those who paid their lives for their country," he noted.

Iraq's Al Karkh is considered one of the best teams in Iraq, grouping some of the best players in the Arab World. De La Salle's team is considered a strong team in Palestine and Jordan's 1990, 92, 93 and 94 champion and this year's runner up Al Ahli groups a big number of rising stars.

Meanwhile, Haddad who is vice-chairman of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) said Jordan's national team player Zeid Alkhas will leave for South Korea this week to join the ABC All-Star team in a match against the Korean team Monday.

Alkhas was a member of the under-18 team that won the Asian bronze medal in 1995 and became the first Jordanian team to qualify to a World Championship. He is currently studying in the U.S. and was chosen to represent Jordan, and play in the ABC team.

"I am so happy to play with the Asian team and I will try my best to play a good match," Alkhas told the Jordan Times.

"This is a good chance for me to represent my country and play good basketball," he added.

## Top seeds through at Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Irina Spirela and Nathalie Tauziat, the top two seeds, made it past the second round of the DHS classic women's tennis tournament in contrasting style on Tuesday.

Both had straight set wins but while Romanian Spirela, the number one seed, was given a stern test by Rachel McQuillan of Australia before winning 7-5, 7-6 (7/5), second-seeded Tauziat of France easily overcame Kristina Brandi of America 6-1, 6-4.

The tournament's fourth and fifth seeds joined them in the third round. Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia, the fourth seed, was hardly troubled in a 6-1, 6-1 win over Naoko Kijimuta of Japan, while fifth-seeded Anne-Gaelle Sidot of France fought through 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 against Catalina Cristea of Romania.

There was also a second-round victory for Magdalena Maleeva, the seventh seed from Bulgaria. She beat Czech Lenka Cenkova 6-2, 6-1.

But the number 10 seed, Italy's Silvia Farina, fell in the first round, losing 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 to Wiltrud Probst of Germany.

Larisa Neiland also lost. The 16th seed from Latvia was knocked out of her second-round match by Ginger Helgeson-Nielsen of America 6-3, 6-4.

## Rosset goes out at Queen's

LONDON (R) — Swiss fifth seed Marc Rosset and four other seeds were knocked out of the London Grass Court Championships at Queen's Club on Tuesday.

The giant Rosset capitulated 7-6 (6-1), 6-3 against lowly-ranked Frenchman Jerome Golmard. "I played so badly... I just have nothing to say," he mumbled before dejectedly leaving the club.

Rosset was joined on the sidelines by 10th seed Jan Siemerink, 12th seed Cedric Pioline, number 13 Alex O'Brien and number 15 Marc-Kevin Goellner as surprise early exits.

Britain's fourth seed Tim Henman, came back from a set down to eventually edge out compatriot Andrew Richardson, at 2.01 metres, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Dutchman Siemerink was dismissed by Stephane Simon of France 6-4, 6-0 while in an all-France affair Pioline was eliminated by qualifier Jean-Philippe Fleurian 7-5, 6-3.

British wild card Martin Lee, ranked 500th in the world, provided a big shock by seeing off World No. 34 O'Brien of the United States 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

Goellner, a semi-finalist in 1995, fell to New Zealand's Brett Steven 4-6 6-1 6-4.

Sixth seed Australian Mark Philippoussis made hard work of American Jonathan Stark before eventually advancing 7-6 (12-10), 3-6, 6-3.

Last week's French Open semifinalists Filip Dewulf and Pat Rafter had very different destinies on the west London grass.

Rafter ran through Israel's Eyal Ran 7-5, 6-2 while Belgian Dewulf was brought crashing back down to earth with a 6-7 (6-8) 6-4, 6-2 defeat by 106th-ranked Canadian Daniel Nestor.

### Kuerten back in action

In Bologna, Brazil's new French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten returned to action after a day's rest with an easy doubles win on Tuesday playing with compatriot Fernando Meligeni.

They beat Argentine and Mexican qualifiers Marcelo Charpentier and David Roditi 6-3, 6-4 at the \$328,000 international men's clay court tournament.

"Winning at Roland Garros has not changed me or my life. It has just changed my ranking," the 20-year-old Kuerten told a news conference earlier in the day.

"I've won 12 consecutive matches and I hope to carry on but it won't be easy here," he added.

He said he celebrated his French Open title with his family who had travelled to France. "But then I went to bed early and went to sleep immediately. I stayed calm."

Despite his stunning win that moved him from 66th to 15th in the world rankings, the Brazilian is only the eighth seed in Bologna.

Spain's Alberto Berasategui is the top seed.

Two seeds have gone out in the first round in Bologna, with Norway's fourth seed Christian Ruud the biggest to fall. Ruud lost 6-1 6-4 to Argentine Franco Squillari.

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♠ A 8 5  
♥ A 8 7 6  
♦ A J 4 3  
♣ A Q

**WEST**  
♠ Q J 10 7 4  
♥ Q J 10  
♦ 7 6 5  
♣ K 6 4

**EAST**  
♠ A 8  
♥ Q 8 5 4 2  
♦ Q 10 9 8  
♣ J 10 8 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K J 6 5 2  
♥ K 3  
♦ K Q 2  
♣ 9 7 3

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
10 Pass 1a Pass  
2NT Pass 3c Pass  
3a Pass 4NT Pass  
5a Pass 6a Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠  
Suppose you were shown only the North-South cards and told the contract was six spades. Given the opening lead of the queen of hearts and asked how you would play the trump suit, what would be your reply?

Six spades is a reasonable contract. Once South learned that North held three-card trump support and Blackwood uncovered the information that North held all four

aces, South barged into six spades. At worst, the small slam would depend on a finesse.

How did you answer the question posed above? Move to the head of the class if you replied that it is impossible to determine at this stage of the play. It depends on whether you have to bring in the trump suit with no losers, or whether you can afford to concede a trump trick.

The only possible loser outside the trump suit is in clubs. So win the first trick in hand with the king and immediately lead a club to the queen. If it loses, you cannot afford to lose a trump trick as well, and the percentage play to accomplish that is to cash the ace of trumps and then finesse the jack.

When the queen of clubs wins, however, the situation is entirely different. Now you can make your slam even if you lose a trump trick, so you can afford to adopt a safety means conceding a trick you might not have to surrender. Come to hand with a trump to the king! Continue with low trump. If West follows low, insert the nine and, no matter what East's holding, you can lose no more than one trick. If West shows out, rise with the ace and return a trump to your leave, and again you can't lose more than one trick. Try it.

## Hizbollah leader threatens U.S. after 'no' vote at U.N.

BAALBEK (AP) — A former leader of Hizbollah threatened Tuesday to hit back at the United States for voting against a U.N. draft resolution calling on Israel to pay damages for shelling a peacekeeping base in Lebanon last year.

A U.N. committee Saturday approved the draft resolution 107-2. Israel and the United States voted against it. Japan, Russia and Ukraine abstained.

The resolution, which calls on Israel to pay about \$1.7 million to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) as part of its 1997-98 budget, goes to the full 185-member General Assembly for consideration, possibly by Friday.

"The American administration is responsible for the blood of our children in

Cana ... and for all the crimes and destruction inflicted on Lebanon as a result of the (Israeli) occupation," Sheikh Subhi Tufaili, the former Hizbollah leader, said Tuesday.

About 100 people were killed in an Israeli attack on a U.N. base near Cana in southern Lebanon on April 18, 1996. The base was packed with civilians who had taken refuge there from an Israeli bombing blitz aimed at Lebanese guerrillas.

Israel has said the base was hit by mistake after the Iranian-backed Hizbollah fired on Israeli targets from nearby. Both Israel and the United States have accused guerrillas of taking refuge at the base.

"We have the full right to obtain our rights from them

(Americans) through ways we find appropriate and means we deem necessary," said Sheikh Tufaili, who was speaking at a rally in Yammouneh, 28 kilometres northwest of Baalbek, the main city in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

"This is a threat to Americans and all those who stand with them ... Our hands are strong and far-reaching," he said without elaborating. Sheikh Tufaili was Hizbollah's leader when Shiite militants kidnapped and held Western hostages in Lebanon in the mid-1980s.

Hizbollah at present spearheads a guerrilla war to drive Israeli and allied forces from a south Lebanese border strip held by Israel since 1985 to protect its northern areas from cross-border raids.

## Turk with two wives named minister for women's affairs

ANKARA (AFP) — A conservative politician with two wives and 11 children has been given Turkey's portfolio for women's affairs, government officials said Wednesday.

Salim Ensarioglu, already state minister for government coordination, has taken over the portfolio of former State Minister Isilay Saygin, in charge of women's affairs. She resigned from the cabinet last month.

"The fact that I have two wives is a characteristic of my region," Mr. Ensarioglu, of ethnic Kurdish origin from Turkey's southeast, told AFP.

"I will try to do my best to promote women's rights," he said Wednesday.

Mr. Ensarioglu is a member of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path Party, junior partners in Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's coalition government.

Mr. Ensarioglu has wed one of his two wives under Turkey's secular law and the other under Islamic marriage. He has 11 children.

Turkish law formally bans religious marriages, but such marriages are usually tolerated in conservative sectors of society. Under Islam, men can marry up to four women.

Ms. Saygin resigned from her post in protest at the pro-Islamic slant of Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party.

## Turkish army accuses Iran, Saudis of aiding fundamentalists in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's pro-secular army Wednesday accused Iran, Saudi Arabia and two other Islamic states of assisting Muslim fundamentalism in Turkey.

"We have all evidence that Iran, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Sudan are providing financial and psychological support for subversive religious groups in

Turkey," General Fevzi Turkmen, head of intelligence at the Turkish general staff, told a briefing for journalists.

Gen. Turkmen accused a former Iranian ambassador in Ankara of coordinating Iran's support for pro-Islamic terrorist groups.

Turkey in February called on Iran to recall Ambassador Mohammad

Bagheri after he attacked Turkey's secular regime at a public meeting in Ankara.

"Iran is using all kinds of propaganda to motivate subversive religious elements in Turkey against the regime," Gen. Turkmen said.

"Saudi Arabia and Libya are providing financial backing and Sudan logistical support," he said.

## Iraq's health minister complains about lack of medicines again

BAGHDAD (AP) — Health Minister Omed Medhat Mubarak Wednesday again complained about the slow delivery of medicines under the U.N.-approved oil-for-food programme and blamed America for the delay.

The first shipment of medicine arrived in Iraq on May 9, nearly five months after the United Nations approved the programme that allows Iraq to sell oil to buy needed humanitarian supplies.

Mr. Mubarak said at the time that the U.N. oversight committee had approved just 86 of 550 pending contracts for medicine and medical supplies.

On Wednesday, he told a news conference that

271 contracts had been approved. Still, he said, just \$2 million of the promised \$210 million in medicine and supplies had actually arrived in Iraq.

He said that U.S. representatives on the committee were delaying approvals.

"At one point, they (the Americans) say that the item is not listed in the main list, but after several days of delay they go back by themselves to approve the same item," Mr. Mubarak told reporters.

"Sometimes they say the prices are not clear or the transportation costs are too high ... all just excuses to delay the contracts."

He said orders for 200 ambulances had been

held up, adding that the Americans gave no reason for their hesitation.

Mr. Mubarak said that the death rate for children had risen to 168 per 1,000 births, compared with 24 per 1,000 births before the Gulf war.

The U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions banning Iraq's sale of oil in 1990, after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait.

Last December, it approved the oil-for-food programme to try to ease the suffering of the Iraqis under the sanctions.

It allowed Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to buy food and medical supplies. Earlier this month, the United Nations renewed the programme for another six months.

## Orthodox Jews attack worshippers, Palestinians and police in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Dozens of ultra-Orthodox Jews attacked conservative Jews in Jerusalem's old city Wednesday during the Jewish holiday of Shavuot that celebrates the city's holiness, police said.

The religious Jews cursed and shoved a group of conservative Jews while they were praying at the western wall, the holiest site in Judaism.

"After police escorted the conservative Jews outside the square, the group was

bombarded with stones and other objects from a nearby religious seminary, injuring one," said a police spokeswoman.

Orthodox Jews regard the more liberal practices of conservative Jews as a threat to the preservation of the religion in the Jewish state.

Police arrested three ultra-Orthodox Jews after they damaged 18 vehicles near the Dung gate to the old city, close to the Western Wall. The vandalism was apparently meant to express

opposition to the use of motor vehicles on holidays, when observant Jews do not operate heavy machinery.

Other ultra-Orthodox Jews sprayed tear gas on police and Palestinians near Damascus gate. No injuries or arrests were reported.

Some 25,000 Jews gathered at the Western Wall overnight Tuesday to celebrate Shavuot. The wall, also known as the Wailing Wall, is the last standing structure of Judaism's second temple destroyed by the Romans in 586 B.C.



A JOINT BREAK AT QATRANEH: A group of Jordanian and U.S. soldiers sit together in the Qatranah desert, some 90-kilometre south of Amman, Wednesday, during the final phase of their joint military exercises. Some 1,500 U.S. marines participated in the exercises, dubbed 'Infinite Moonlight 97' (Photo by AFP)

## Cyprus president receives U.N. invitation for bicomunal talks

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides Wednesday received an invitation from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan for talks with Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash next month.

The U.N. representative in Cyprus, Gustave Feissel, handed the invitation to Mr. Clerides, a Greek Cypriot, and will deliver one to Mr. Denktash later Wednesday, but he declined to give any details of its contents, the official Cyprus news agency said.

The meeting between Mr. Clerides and Mr. Denktash, their first direct talks since October 1994, will be held in the New York area from July 9.

In a report Tuesday, Mr. Annan expressed concern about arms levels on the divided eastern Mediterranean island and recommended maintaining U.N. peacekeepers there until year-end.

Mr. Annan said in a pessimistic report to the U.N. Security Council that the presence of the 1,200 U.N. peacekeepers "remains indispensable in order to maintain the ceasefire between the two sides, which is a prerequisite for achieving the settlement sought by the Security Council."

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkey invaded the northern third after forces planning to unite the island with Greece overthrew the Cypriot government in Nicosia.

The Turkish-Cypriot leadership declared a breakaway republic in 1983, but the entity is recognised only by Ankara which maintains 35,000 troops there.

In January, the Greek-Cypriot government announced it would buy S-300 ground-to-air missiles from Russia which are set to be deployed in mid-1998.

The announcement sparked angry warnings of a military strike from Turkey.

"Regrettably, there has been no change in the excessive levels of military forces and armaments in Cyprus and the rate at which they are being expanded, upgraded and modernised," Mr. Annan said.

"Nor have the military authorities accepted the package of reciprocal measures proposed by UNFICYP (U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus) to reduce tension along the ceasefire lines," he said.

## Baker opens talks on western Sahara conflict

LONDON (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, now serving as U.N. special envoy for western Sahara, on Wednesday opened talks with the parties involved in the dispute over the north African territory.

Mr. Baker, who will hold two days of separate talks with all those involved, started by meeting the Algerian-backed Polisario Front, which seeks independence for western Sahara.

He will also meet representatives of Morocco, which controls most of the former Spanish colony, as well as envoys from Algeria and

Mauritania, both closely concerned with the issue.

The United Nations has been trying for years to organise a referendum, originally set for January 1992, to decide whether western Sahara should be incorporated into Morocco or become independent.

But the referendum, called for under a U.N. peace plan, has been repeatedly postponed because of a disagreement between the two sides over who should be eligible to vote.

Mr. Baker will advise Secretary-General Kofi Annan whether the U.N.

Plan can still be implemented in its present form or whether other ways of resolving the conflict could be found.

The Security Council last month renewed until September 30 the mandate of a 230-member U.N. observer force called the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

It has been monitoring a September 1991 ceasefire that halted a brushfire war between Morocco and Polisario dating back to Spain's withdrawal from western Sahara in 1976.

## Turkish Cypriot police arrest 120 after clashes

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot police have arrested 120 Turkish university students following violent clashes between far-right "Grey Wolves" and Kurdish students in Famagusta, northern Cypriot police said Wednesday.

The clashes were sparked off after small-scale fighting between the two groups over the weekend. Later larger groups of students from both sides gathered and attacked each other with sticks and

stones Monday and Tuesday, police said.

At least six people were injured and a number of houses known to host Kurdish students from the southeast of Turkey had been attacked, damaged and looted, they said.

Northern Cypriot Grey Wolf chairman, Osman Colak, blamed the incidents on sympathisers of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which is fighting for independence in Turkey's

mainly Kurdish southeast.

Some 15,000 students from Turkey are studying at universities in northern Cyprus.

Cyprus has been divided since Turkish forces seized the northern part of the island in 1974 in response to a Greek Cypriot coup engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

The breakaway state of northern Cyprus, declared in 1983, is only recognised by Ankara.

## Hanson's Australian race row sends a ripple throughout Asia

HONG KONG (R) — Australia's acrimonious race debate has sent a ripple through Asia, reinforcing views of a country grappling with old demons while delicately expanding diplomatic and trade ties with its neighbours.

But few officials and ordinary citizens in Asia expect Australia's backlash against Asian immigration — led by race row politician Pauline Hanson — to affect trade ties.

"I won't stop buying Australian beef or boycott Australian products just because of a discriminatory drive by a short-sighted woman," said Julia Huang, 58, a translator in Taiwan.

Ms. Hanson has called for a freeze on immigration, arguing in her maiden speech to parliament that Australia risked being "swamped by Asians" who have "their own culture and religion and form ghettos and do not assimilate."

The independent legislator tapped a nerve in a country which only abandoned a "white Australia" immigration policy in the late 1960s.

Her recently formed One Nation Party has attracted strong support and now ranks

as the country's third most popular party, well ahead of Australia's traditional third political force, the Australian Democrats.

Canberra has stepped up criticism of Ms. Hanson in recent months, describing her views as stupid, but her rallies draw thousands of supporters, along with thousands of protesters.

The issue has been cited as a threat to Australia's trade and investment links, but a random selection of views across Asia showed most people reserving judgement on the country, although the debate has revived fears of racism for some.

"I know Australia can have a very white point of view and that some people support this, but I never thought that the majority felt this way," said Anne Lee, an office worker in Hong Kong. "If she gets majority support, then I might change my opinion about Australia, and think it practices racial discrimination."

Wai Haw-Yim, a Malaysian who spent 11 years in Australian schools, said she has watched the Hanson debate with some concern.

"I was considering going back to live and now it has

made me think about it in the current circumstances. I would probably go back, but before I wouldn't have thought twice about it," said the 30-year-old teacher.

About 13,000 Malaysian students study in Australia at any one time.

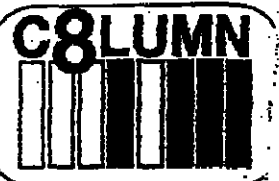
Some Taiwanese voiced concern about relatives in Australia.

"I worry that the campaign will affect my husband's business in Australia," said secretary Elsie Fang, adding that she would ask her son to return from Australia where he has been studying.

Wayne Hsu, emigration consultant of Fastlane International Corporation in Taiwan, said Ms. Hanson's campaign had discouraged a number of students from studying in Australia. "At least 20 per cent of Taiwan students cancelled their plans to study in Australia in the past year under the insistence of their worried parents," he said.

At the same time, the rate of study in Canada has risen, he said, without giving figures.

Taiwan's Board of Foreign Trade said two-way trade had not been affected by Ms. Hanson's campaign.



## Bank robber arrested after waiting in line

PORT LAUDERDALE (R) — Patience was the downfall of a bank robber in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. David Hindmarsh walked into bank Monday and handed the teller a note demanding money and threatening to set off a pipe bomb, police said Tuesday. The teller asked him to wait. So he returned to the line and waited — for 20 minutes. When she eventually handed him a bag stuffed with \$1,500, he ran out the door and into the arms of a posse of policemen summoned by the bank. "He was asked to wait and he waited," detective Clinton Ward said. The pipe bomb turned out to be a toilet roll tube.

## Moscow prefect rounds up hookers to read them riot act

MOSCOW (AFP) — A high-ranking Moscow official had hundreds of prostitutes bussed in to see him overnight Wednesday — to tell them that their presence on the city's streets is no longer welcome, reports said. In an unusual encounter, the prefect for the city centre, Alexander Muzykantsky, told more than 300 ladies of the night that street walking would not be tolerated in the run-up to the capital's 850th anniversary celebrations in September. "I am not going to talk to you about the subject of morals, I want to tell, warn, inform you that the city leadership has decided to end the most cynical, harassing form of prostitution — prostitutes openly flirting with citizens," he said.

## Surgical dressing spends 25 years in Italian woman

LECCO (R) — An Italian woman who had her first child by caesarean section has spent the 25 years since with a surgical gauze in her abdomen, doctors said. Giuditta Consonni, 55, had complained for years of stomach pains and headaches. Only this week, when doctors from a hospital in the northern town of Lecco examined her, was the root of the problem discovered and the gauze removed. The piece of gauze measured 7x7 centimetres and was overlooked by surgeons during the operation in 1972.

## Swiss-bound Tarantulas discovered in Bogota

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian authorities intercepted a cargo of 146 Tarantulas being shipped by air to a clinic in Switzerland, El Espectador newspaper said. It said the spiders, all apparently alive and capable of delivering a painful bite, were found at Bogota's El Dorado airport when the packages in which they had been packed were sent through a drug-detecting scanner. Tarantulas, native to the Americas, are large, hairy creatures that can measure three inches up to 10 inches with legs extended. Though their bites can be painful they are not usually dangerous to humans.

## Paula Jones' lawyer fails in Virginia political bid

RICHMOND (R) — Gilbert Davis, one of the lawyers representing Paula Jones, the woman suing U.S. President Bill Clinton for sexual harassment, failed in his bid to win the Republican nomination to become Virginia's attorney general. With over 90 per cent of the votes counted in the state's Republican primary, Davis was running fourth of the four contenders with 18 per cent of the vote.